WORLD SOCCER

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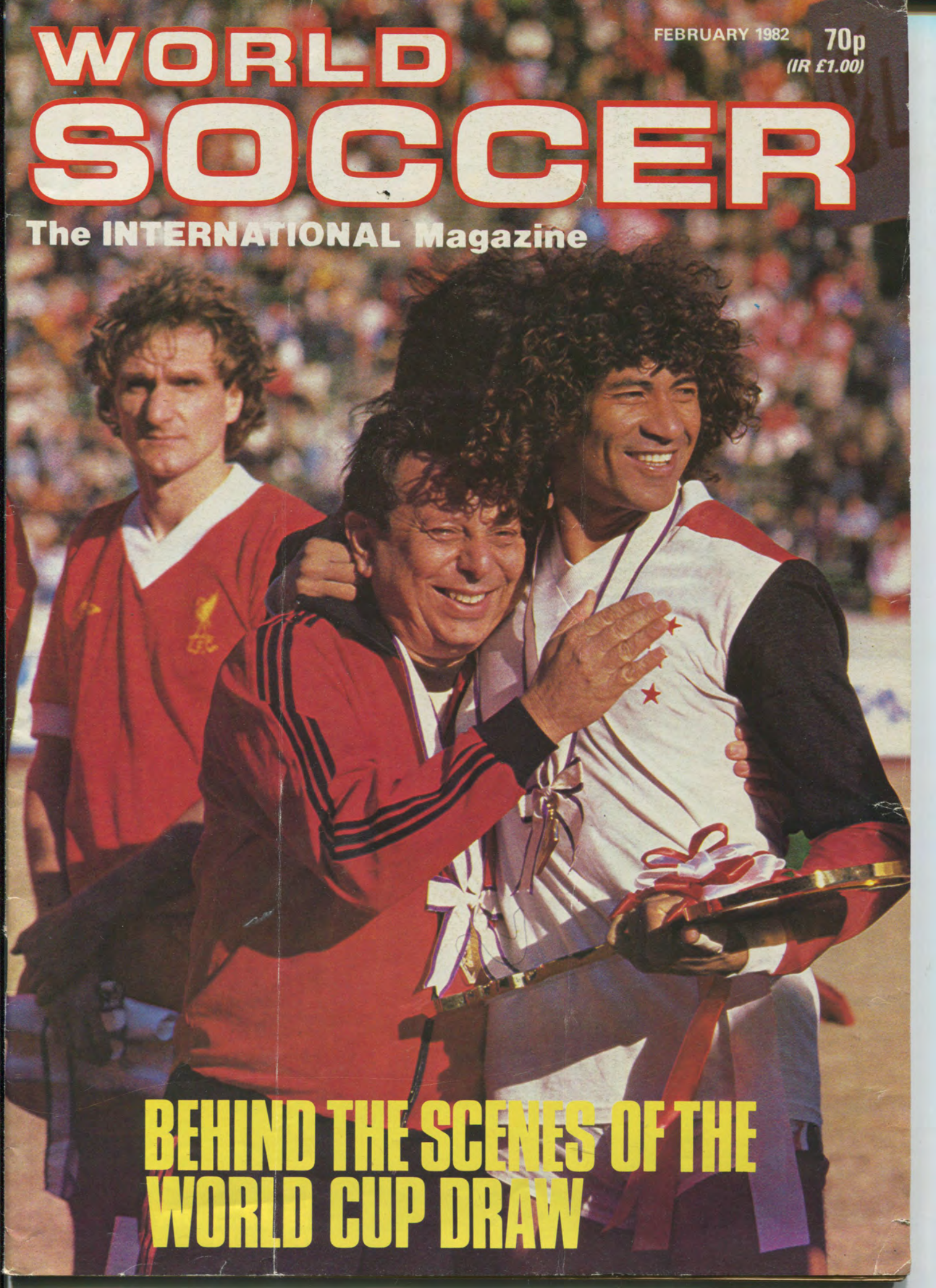

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE WORLD CUP DRAW

WILFRED VAN MOER BEVERAN AND BELGIUM

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GROUP ONE
Italy
Peru
Poland
Cameroons

GROUP TWO
W. Germany
Chile
Algeria
Austria

GROUP THREE
Argentina
Belgium
Hungary
El Salvador

World Cup draw ends in chaos

by Paul Parish

AMID scenes that ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous the world of soccer learned its destiny for Espana '82.

As TV moguls around the world ripped up their programme schedules, FIFA caught the mood of Spain . . . the World Cup draw, Manana!

After the ceremony and the speeches came the fun and the farce as the well planned draw developed into immediate chaos. The whole system seemed too complicated for those who had devised it when, initially, both Belgium and Scotland were placed in the wrong groups.

Then one of the little footballs, which swirled around in the wire cages normally reserved for Spanish National Lottery, came to pieces. Red-faced officials were left poking around with pens and rulers to try and release the half of the ball which contained the name of a country!

Of course, it all came right in the end, but, as so much of the draw is pre-determined by seedings, geography and politics, the world was left contemplating on what all the fuss was about.

This was the culmination of all the qualifying groups, where 109 countries had battled through 305 matches to win one of the 24 places in the Spanish jamboree.

Now, in June and July, there will be 52 matches in 29 days in 14 cities across Spain which will decide who will emerge as champions from the greatest soccer show on earth.

England and Northern Ireland, of the British contingent, were relatively happy with their draw. Scotland, however, were less than enamoured with the prospect of meeting Brazil and the Soviet Union in a frighteningly imposing Group Six.

There had been considerable back-stage lobbying in the week preceding the draw concerning England's position as one of the six selected seeds. Was it merited? Belgium, who at least had some cause, and France, who most certainly didn't, tried to persuade the organising committee to alter their decision.

But England remained seeded, though their draw number — 13 — will doubtless have some superstitious connotations. It means that England will play all their matches in the relative cool of Bilbao against France, Czechoslovakia and little known Kuwait.

This is Basque country and while there are rumbling fears that the local liberation army may choose the World Cup as a spectacular vehicle for their case, there is greater fear in England that our own army, of mindless bovver-boys, will be the likelier trouble makers.

It is wrong to say that this is an easy draw for England. But it could have been worse.

Manager Ron Greenwood was typically calm about it all, though there was the suggestion that next month's friendly in Paris with France, might not be really what he — or the French — wanted.

Referring to the opponents in Group Four Greenwood said: "France and Czechoslovakia are formidable opponents and their manager Josef Venglos is a friend of mine.

"I do not know a thing about Kuwait, however."

That will doubtless be remedied, for there is every chance that England's final game against Kuwait will decide whether they progress to the second phase. And goal difference could be of great significance.

Incidentally, England have met both France and Czechoslovakia in previous World Cup Finals — beating the French 2-0 at Wembley in 1966 and the Czechs 1-0 in Mexico four years later.

Like England, Northern Ireland also miss the unknown abilities of the lesser South American countries. They have to meet host country Spain, the often upredictable Yugoslavs and the completely unknown Honduras.

Irish Chief Billy Bingham was far from upset by the draw. "I'm reasonably hopeful and see Yugoslavia as the country we need to beat to get beyond the first stage."

And it is with Yugoslavia that Northern Ireland must start their matches.

There was scarcely likely to be any enthusiasm from Scotland. This is their third successive final qualification and it was little wonder that they took a rather jaundiced view of England's position as seeds.

"It's the toughest group of them all. Brazil and the Soviet Union look like teams that could go all the way," was how manager Jock Stein interpreted the task facing Scotland.

Scotland met Brazil on the 1974 finals in West Germany and shared a goalless draw with a South American team as weak as any they have ever sent to a World Cup. That was a group decided on goal difference — and Scotland were the odd men out behind Yugoslavia and Brazil.

Brazil and the Soviet Union have met before — in Sweden in 1958. Then a young man named Pele scored one of the goals that sent the Soviets to a 2-0 defeat . . . and started a legend in the process.

● *Continued overleaf*

GROUP FOUR
England
France
Czechoslovakia
Kuwait

GROUP FIVE
Spain
N. Ireland
Yugoslavia
Honduras

GROUP SIX
Brazil
Scotland
Russia
New Zealand

KIWIS THROUGH

from Rab Smith and Godfrey Robert

NEW ZEALAND became the 24th and last qualifiers for the World Cup thanks to a dramatic 2-1 defeat of China in a play-off in Singapore just six days before the draw for the finals.

Teenage striker Wynton Rufer was the Kiwis' hero in a match they forced only thanks to a remarkable recovery right at the end of the mini-league, when it seemed China had one foot in Spain.

Both teams finished level on points behind Kuwait in the Asia/Oceania play-off league, and with an identical goal difference . . . and that was when the fun started.

Where should the play-off be held? New Zealand suggested Spain, but that clearly created too many difficulties with travel. FIFA came up with Kuala Lumpur. China agreed but the Kiwis objected: after all, China had played their two matches against Saudi Arabia there. It would be like home advantage.

So eventually Singapore was settled on, though even here some 76 per cent of the population were of Chinese origin. A decisive factor in the choice was the sponsorship backing of Kentucky Fried Chicken, who put up a guaranteed £12,000 towards staging costs.

The Singapore sports authority weren't the only ones who needed cash. So did the New Zealanders. In fact it took a public appeal only a week before the game to provide the cash to take manager John Adshead and his men to Singapore — and some of that was contributed by rival rugby clubs.

The Kiwis didn't let them down. After travelling 55,000 miles and playing a qualifying record of 14 games before Singapore, they had no intention of caving in.

Indeed, despite the predominant Chinese influence in the 60,000 capacity crowd, they were always the better team in a scrappy game.

Rufer created the opening goal for Steve Wooddin in the 24th minute, then grabbed the second himself two minutes after half-time, having collected a long clearance from goalkeeper Richard Wilson.

Too late the Chinese snapped into action, Huang Xiangdong drove a free kick through the defensive wall in the 75th minute, but despite a succession of free kicks and corners to bombard their penalty box, New Zealand held out . . . to claim their place in the finals.

Earlier The Kiwis had kept Spain in their sights — against all the odds — by scoring five goals away to Saudi Arabia, in the last match of the play-off group, in Riyadh.

Controversy had followed the New Zealanders. They looked totally in control during their home match with the Saudis in November, and from the kick-off produced sustained pressure which was rewarded with a penalty in the fifth minute, from which Billy McClure scored.

A sharp turn and shot by Grant Turner had the ball in the net again only minutes later. But as referee Artur Ithurralde signalled the goal and trotted back towards the middle, the Saudis pointed towards linesman Tony Boskovic. After a short discussion, the goal was refused, and the Kiwis, obviously upset, were punished by the big Arabian striker, Majid Abdulla, who showed pace and aggression to break away and score twice before halftime.

A steady flow of chances were made in the Saudi goalmouth in the second half, but the kiwis missed the composure in attack of their most capped player Brian Turner — who had been inexplicably dropped by manager Adshead. So it fell to young centre-half Rikki Herbert to equalise in the closing minutes with a classic header from a corner, similar to his winner against China.

The result still meant that the New Zealanders had to bring back a maximum of four points from their last two matches in the Middle East. Two factors made the task less daunting: Brian Turner's determination to regain his place, which kindled training sessions into life, and the inclusion of Wynton Rufer in the travelling party.

As top striker in the New Zealand under 19 team, Rufer's erratic brilliance had taken him to Norwich in England, and there was hope that the Second Division side might have honed up his undoubted talent.

Rufer was an unqualified success. Against Kuwait, he teamed up well with the promoted Brian Turner, and despite an early setback when Faith headed the home side into the lead, skipper Steve Sumner levelled the score with a free-kick, then Rufer gave keeper Tarabulis no chance with a powerful shot to make it 2-1 to the Kiwis.

Thousands of New Zealanders celebrated in front of their TV sets in the middle of their night but, not for the first time, fate dealt them a body blow.

In the last minute of play, goalkeeper Richard Wilson hotly disputed a corner awarded against his side, but the ball was played in to the far post, and from a tangle of bodies it popped across the goalmouth, allowing Sami to nod in the easiest of equalisers.

In classic contrast the jubilant Kuwaitis leapt about defying gravity, while the New Zealanders slumped to the ground at the final whistle. They knew that in the last game of the group, in Riyadh, they required a seemingly impossible five goal win, to force a play-off with China.

Extremely high temperatures and the prospect of playing on unacustomed Astro-Turf in Riyadh compounded the issue, but the Kiwis declared they would go out on a high note, and predicted a win.

Christmas came early for New Zealand. It may only have been December 20, but young Rufer showed the way early in the match. Exposing the offside trap of the Saudis, he burst through and volleyed the first goal past Marwan Salim, then, almost from the restart, Turner acrobatically stretched to strike home another superb volley.

All those sitting on the edge of their seats in New Zealand watching on TV could be excused some stirrings of hope — was it possible after all?

Another two goals in quick succession, confirmed the hopes. First Steve Wooddin then young Rufer again ripped through a Saudi defence in tatters.

The half ended with Salim blatantly body-checking Wooddin as he raced into the box, and Turner, who later admitted to being so nervous that he could hardly place the ball through shaking so much — scored goal number five.

Booed off the park by their considerable support, the Saudis competed more aggressively in the second half, and although the Kiwis still created chances galore, and Duncan Cole hit the woodwork, the score remained 5-0 at the whistle.

Accountants may wring their hands and point out how one more goal would have saved the cost of a play-off, but the mob who welcomed the Kiwis back in Auckland, were not so narrow minded. They were proud of their team . . . and even the more proud a few weeks later.

● *Continued from page 3*

Brazil, and in truth they cannot relish their part in this draw, were immediately installed as favourites to regain the crown they last won in 1970. If the bookmakers are correct it is West Germany they will meet in the final and there is no doubt that the ease in which the Germans came through their qualifying group suggests they are Europe's likeliest winners.

The Germans must meet Algeria, Chile and, almost inevitably, Austria. The paths of Germany and their alpine neighbours seems to cross at every opportunity these days.

They both came through from Group One in the qualifying rounds, have recently been drawn in the same European Championships section and have met before in the World Cup.

Austria will doubtless hope they can repeat the 3-2 win the second phase of the 1978 finals in Argentina, while the Germans will recall with greater relish a 6-1 victory in the 1954 semi-finals. Holders Argentina have tough European opposition in Belgium and Hungary and the anonymous Central Americans from El Salvador.

Belgium, runners-up in the last European Championships, were the leaders of the anti-England nations who sought to change the seedings. They might just be the last nation Argentina would like to face when they kick-off the competition in Barcelona on June 13.

And memories of Argentina's last match with Hungary are all too fresh in the mind. That was in 1978 when in an explosive and ugly encounter Argentina won 2-1 — after being a goal behind — and Hungary had their key players, Torossik and Nyilasi sent off. Their other meeting was less tempestuous, a goalless draw in Chile in 1962. Belguim, by the way, best El Salvador 3-0 in the Mexico Championships of 1970.

Which leaves just Group One where seeded Italy must meet Peru, Cameroon and the unfortunate Poles. It is to be hoped that by June Poland's dreadful mid-winter will be forgotten and that they can travel to Spain, at least easy in mind.

On form the two European sides should emerge from this group, with Poland, perhaps, hoping that they could repeat the 2-1 success they enjoyed in 1974 over Italy.

Europe's 14 strong representation has already caused displeasure in South American and the Third World and generally the draw would seem to have favoured the staging continent.

It is virtually impossible, for example, that there will be an all South American final with Brazil and Argentina likely to meet either in the second phase or the semi-final.

The draw also means that England, for example, could not meet Scotland before the final though they could meet Northern Ireland in phase two.

One half of the draw includes: Italy, Poland, Peru, Cameroons, Argentina, Belgium, Hungry, El Salvador, Brazil, USSR, Scotland and New Zealand.

The other half comprises: West Germany, Algeria, Chile, Austria, England, France Czechoslovakia, Kuwait, Spain, Honduras, Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland.

FIXTURES

GROUP ONE

Italy, Poland, Peru, Cameroon.
June 14: Italy v Poland (Vigo, 5.15).
June 15: Peru v Cameroon (Coruna, 5.15).
June 18: Italy v Peru (Vigo, 5.15).
June 19: Poland v Cameroon (Coruna, 5.15).
June 22: Peru v Poland (Coruna, 5.15).
June 23: Italy v Cameroon (Vigo, 5.15).

GROUP TWO

West Germany, Algeria, Chile, Austria.
June 16: W. Germany v Algeria (Gijon, 5.15).
June 17: Chile v Austria (Oviedo, 5.15).
June 20: W. Germany v Chile (Gijon, 5.15).
June 21: Algeria v Austria (Oviedo, 5.15).
June 24: Algeria v Chile (Oviedo, 5.15).
June 25: W. Germany v Austria (Gijon, 5.15).

GROUP THREE

Argentina, Belgium, Hungary, El Salvador.
June 13: Argentina v Belgium (Barcelona, 8.0).
June 15: Hungary v El Salvador (Elche, 9.0).
June 18: Argentina v Hungary (Alicante, 9.0).
June 19: Belgium v El Salvador (Elche, 9.0).
June 22: Belgium v Hungary (Elche, 9.0).
June 23: Argentina v El Salvador (Alicante, 9.0).

GROUP FOUR

ENGLAND, France, Czechoslovakia, Kuwait.
June 16: ENGLAND v France (Bilbao, 5.15).
June 17: Czechoslovakia v Kuwait (Valladolid, 5.15).
June 20: ENGLAND v Czechoslovakia (Bilbao, 5.15).
June 21: France v Kuwait (Valladolid, 5.15).
June 24: France v Czechoslovakia (Valladolid, 5.15).
June 25: ENGLAND v Kuwait (Bilbao, 5.15).

GROUP FIVE

Spain, Honduras, Yugoslavia, N. IRELAND.
June 16: Spain v Honduras (Valencia, 9.0).
June 17: Yugoslavia v N. IRELAND (Zaragoza, 9.0).
June 20: Spain v Yugoslavia (Valencia, 9.0).
June 21: Honduras v N. IRELAND (Zaragoza, 9.0).
June 24: Honduras v Yugoslavia (Zaragoza, 9.0).
June 25: Spain v N. IRELAND (Valencia, 9.0).

GROUP SIX

Brazil, Soviet Union, SCOTLAND, New Zealand.
June 14: Brazil v Soviet Union (Seville, 9.0).
June 15: SCOTLAND v New Zealand (Malaga, 9.0).
June 18: Brazil v SCOTLAND (Seville, 9.0).
June 19: Soviet Union v New Zealand (Malaga, 9.0).
June 22: Soviet Union v SCOTLAND (Malaga, 9.0).
June 23: Brazil v New Zealand (Seville, 9.0).

After these Group matches, which will be played on a league basis of two points for a win and one for a draw, the top two teams in each group go forward to the second round.

Goal difference will be used to separate teams with equal points: if goal difference is also equal, priority will be given to the team who have scored more goals; if this still fails they will draw lots.

The 12 teams qualifying from the first round will be divided into four groups of three teams as follows:

GROUP A: Winners of Group 1, winners of Group 3, runners-up of Group 6.

GROUP B: Winners of Group 2, Winners of Group 4, runners-up of Group 5.

GROUP C: Winners of Group 6, runners-up of Group 1, runners-up of Group 3.

GROUP D: Winners of Group 5, runners-up of Group 2, runners-up of Group 4.

The winners of each group will qualify for the semi-finals.

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COVER PICTURE

THE FACES of victory and defeat . . . Flamengo's two-goal centre forward Nunes celebrates the Brazilians' World Club Cup triumph with an official at the final whistle in Tokyo . . . while Phil Thompson (background, left) can hardly believe Liverpool have been beaten so decisively.

File on Flamengo and Tokyo Postscript – see Pages 10-15.

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Behind the scenes in Madrid with Paul Gardner

THAT DRAW – IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE!

MADRID, January 1982 – not, as far as I can see, a city exactly frothing with excitement over the World Cup.

*Scanning the airport for signs of welcome, I find only four "Espana-82" signs adorning a deserted desk. The man behind the **Turismo** counter, asked for some Mundial literature, says he doesn't have any.*

Peering relentlessly through the window during the 20-minute bus ride into the city, trying to spot banners or flags or dancing girls or lapel pins or anything, I see nothing.

*At the post office, the man says they have sold out of special World Cup stamps. The best I can do is a special island in the huge **El Corte Ingles** department store full of over-prices and far-fetched souvenirs (I mean, Rubik's cube with **Naranjito** grinning out from every square?)*

Well, OK, that was Wednesday. By Friday, things, if not buzzing, are mildly humming. Out at the Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos, where the draw is to be held, what appears – from the vocal decibels – like a million journalists are gathering. Wandering around the building, I seem to find nothing but huge piles of boxes containing new typewriters.

There are also, alas, the melancholy trappings of security – military uniforms, machine-guns, and metal detectors squeaking out their high-pitched warnings. A great many of those squeaks are caused by the organising committee's own device, a large, heavy metal pin-on badge that everyone is required to wear.

In the snack bar I find Pelé, nattily dressed in his Televisa (Mexico) jacket. He has time to deliver a typically diplomatic, "Brazil are strong, yes, but Germany and Argentina too, and you must remember that Spain are at home . . ." when a TV-type person appears, ostentatiously looking at his wrist-watch, and begins to manoeuvre Pelé towards the studio.

*Signing autographs as he goes, Pelé gets as far as the door when the 11 schoolboys from the Colegio San Ildefonso, the **niños** who will do the actual drawing, spot him. Suddenly surrounded by eleven shining little faces, confronted by three photographers who have sprung up from the very ground, it seems, Pelé finds time to smile and pose for the picture, then proceeds on his way, still signing autographs.*

Raimundo Saporta, President of the Royal Organising Committee for the 1982 World Cup.

Downstairs he interviews a grim-looking Joao Havelange, and asks him where the 1986 World Cup will be held: "As far as FIFA are concerned, Colombia is now the site of the 1986 World Cup," says Havelange.

Financial

"Well," insists Pelé, "If it isn't held there, what about other candidates such as Brazil or the United States?" "We do not talk about alternative sites," replies Havelange, "Because we have an organising country – Colombia. After this 1982 World Cup, when all the financial and organisational reports are in, they will be studied and we shall see if Colombia can conduct a World Cup with 24 teams."

Which evidently leaves the door open for another site, or for a reduction back to 16 teams.

Upstairs, another player/TV-personality is rushing through the lobby. Peru's Teofilo Cubillas who, with 10 world cup goals needs only another four to equal Gerd Muller's all-time record. Galloping alongside him, I pant: "Will you play in the World Cup?"

"Oh yes, I have to."

More pants: "But will the Ford Lauderdale Strikers release you?" But Cubillas has gone, with his typical speed and elusiveness.

Outside the Sala UNESCO Artemio Franchi is surrounded, and in danger of suffociation, I should have thought, by Italian journalists. He is not sure, he says, how many referees will be used in the World Cup – probably 42 or 44.

The journalists shout louder, they want to know about Paolo Rossi's suspension. "Not my department," says Franchi, "ask the Disciplinary Tribunal." Enzo Bearzot, asked whether Rossi will play, says: "He must" – even though he will have been out of the game for nearly two years.

Ten minutes' walk from Palacio, in the Hotel Melia Castilla, are similar scenes. Sitting on a couch in the lobby, Ron Greenwood and Jock Stein are all smiles and affability. Both agree they would rather have a South American opponent than an European.

"The Latins are not used to off-the-ball movement," says Greenwood, "You can get behind their defenders more easily." Stein says he would, definitely, think about modifying his team against a South American side: "I think you'd want to run them more than you would a European team."

Stein, told by a Spanish journalist that Enzo Bearzot has said he would rather play attractively than win, raises his eyebrows: "It's a nice thing to say, but it's odd it should come from the Italians, it's never been their strong point, playing to please the crowds."

*Michel Hidalgo has hidden himself deep in the inner recesses of a huge, darkly lit lounge. Discovered, he smiles resignedly: "Oh yes, we will do well, but no, no, we cannot win it. The Germans, perhaps . . ." He too would rather play a South American team than a European – "They call us the Brazilians of Europe, you know. Really, I'm more concerned with **where** we play than who."*

*Meanwhile, back at the Palacio, a full rehearsal of the draw has been arranged for 5 o'clock. It starts at 7 o'clock. On stage are three huge, shining bird-cages containing little balls. They revolve, and stop, balls are taken out by the **niños,** countries and numbers are read out, the display board is slowly filled with names. It all looks purposeful and efficient.*

Saturday, the day of the draw, is grey and rainy. In the hotel everyone is complaining that it takes three hours to get breakfast. Jupp Derwall, enveloped in a circle of microphones, tape-recorders and open notebooks, reluctantly admits that West Germany are one of the favourites: "Yes, even the astologers in Germany say we will win. Me, I prefer to rely on my players."

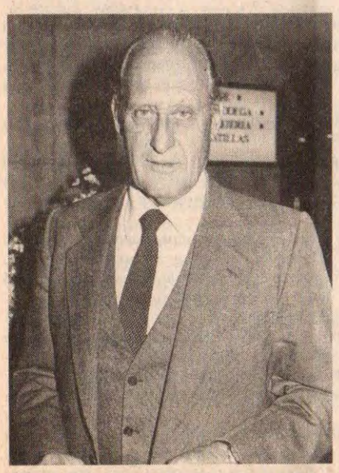
The moment when the draw went wrong . . . problems arise with the mechanical drum containing the balls carrying the names of each country.

Italian team manager Enzo Bearzot makes a point to Honduras manager Jose de la Paz Herera after the ceremony.

A quick swoop around a corner and, for a moment, I have Julio Grondona, president of the Argentine F.A., backed up against a Space Invaders game in the Amusement Room. So what about Argentina? "We can win again, certainly," says Grondona, "We are stronger than in 1978 because we have Maradona. And there is Ramon Diaz, and now Kempes is playing very well."

A press conference at the Palacio produces little new. Herr Neuberger explains that, unanimously, the Executive Committee has confirmed England as one of the seeded teams, and goes on to describe in elaborate detail, just how the draw will be conducted later in the afternoon.

*Propelled by a sudden wave of exhaustion, I climb stairs in search of peace and quiet, eventually discovering a large and almost deserted lounge, complete with inviting armchairs. Tranquility does not last. Two elaborately dressed guards, complete with swinging ceremonial swords, clatter in, then various dignitaries, then the **niños.** I have just completed my highly unofficial survey of the **niños'** choice for world champions (5 votes for West Germany, 3 for Spain, 2 for Brazil and 1 for Italy) when a mini-commotion occurs.*



Jaoa Havelange, President of FIFA.

At full speed, Senor Havelange himself, dressed in an extraordinary fur-collared coat of prodigious length that seems to trail along the ground, sweeps in. He and his party head for the far side of the room, I follow, and we are standing at one end of the new overhead walkway leading across the main road, straight into Bernabeu Stadium. At a nod from Havelange, the party lurches forward, the photographers back up and – inch by inch – the artificially-turfed walkway is officially opened. When we reach the stadium, what do we find, right there on the sacred Real Madrid turf on this soggy afternoon? Two huge helicopters, parked one in each half of the field, part of a demonstration of "Plan Naranja 82", the emergency rescue techniques to be used in all stadiums.

Rumours

The hour of the draw, 7 pm, approaches. Ugly rumours are being put about that there are more accredited journalists than seats. Ever a prey to alarmist talk, I am there early, waiting at the main door. The wrong door, it turns out. Would we all mind going to the upstairs entrance? Inside the auditorium, the first ten rows are reserved for delegations, VIPs, coaches, those sort of people.

*The media are at the back, except for a number of TV-types wandering around down front, smiles in place, mikes at the ready, short stuby aerials sticking out of their backs. I entertain myself watching a short, galvanic little man charging about all over the stage, evidently in a state of advanced hysteria, fiddling with this, moving that, herding the **niños** into position, colliding with the group of 16 people who, with difficulty, are releasing the World Cup from its elaborate wrappings.*

Four minutes late, the proceedings start, with a series of speeches. As Havelange talks (in what a Madrid paper later described as "understandable" Spanish) the noise from the balcony, where the radio and TV commentators are at work, is deafening. The hysterical man, eyes bulging with indignation, steps forward at the side of the stage and dramatically flings both arms outward and upward in a mute appeal for quiet. Nothing happens. FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter explains yet again, just how the draw will work.

Then they get on with it, and as the whole world now knows, they get it wrong. The first two countries drawn, Belgium and Scotland, are put in the wrong groups.

"They've mucked this up," says an English journalist, quite loudly. Indeed, they have. Belgium and Scotland are moved to other groups. Some of the balls refuse to come out of their cage, two break in half. Russia is the last name to appear, and after 18 minutes, it's all done. There is immediately a sort of slowly-sliding avalanche of people as the media descend down the auditorium in search of coaches and comments.

Jock Stein looks stunned, but Jupp Derwall, Ron Greenwood and Jose Santamaria are smiling. Slowly the noise level drops, the lights are dimmed, the hall empties.

Enzo Bearzot makes a telling point as he surveys the mass of people who have attende: "Look – dignitaries, politicians, wives, businessmen, sponsors . . . this is not football."

Yet sponsors had not been as obtrusive as I had feared. Very strangely, Coca-Cola – notorious organisers of hospitality suites and dishers-out of free drinks – were nowhere to be seen, or at least I never saw them.

The most impressive publicity stunt came the day after the draw when at the Real Madrid-Sevilla game, Adidas had the players kicking 20 real leather, genuine Tango-España balls into the crowd. That was the day, too, when Coca-Cola made their belated entry with a series of full page ads in the local press, featuring a smiling young man holding up a bottle of Coke, the young man is Diego Maradona.

*As one who lives in constant fear of the day when the microchips take over and do everything perfectly, I found the snafus of the draw comforting rather than disgraceful. One day, when a robot in Zurich flashes ugly electronic images of the perfect draw all over the world in an instant, we shall remember the **niños** and the bird cage that wouldn't revolve and the ball that broke in half, and we shall try and recall how much better, how much more human, it all used to be.*

HONDURAS ARE READY TO ENJOY THE FINALS

SOCCER'S history books will show that Honduras qualified for a first-ever appearance in the World Cup finals by finishing a comfortable first in the final qualifying round of the CONCACAF (Confederation Norte Centroamericana y del Caribe de Futbol) zone.

But those who were in Tegucigalpa for the six-national play-offs in November will swear that the six teams could play the tournament all over again, six more times — and come up with six different results.

Honduras, chosen to host the play-offs, obviously benefited greatly from playing on the pitch which has been their home for two years of preparation. And before their own wildly emotional fans.

But, in fairness, the Hondurans had been given a good chance of winning a berth in Spain, before Tegucigalpa, by those who had seen all six countries in action.

Honduras had finished top of the first-qualifying round (tied with El Salvador with five wins, two ties and one defeat, but with superior goal-difference) which also included Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama.

Canada and Mexico qualified from their sub-zone of the initial round, disposing of the United States while Cuba and Haiti qualified from the Caribbean, getting past Guyana, Grenada, Surinam, Trindidad-Tobago and the Netherlands Antilles.

So, in a sense, the final round-robin games, all played at the Estadio Nacional over a period of three weeks, were made to measure for the hosts.

And while the end result was convincing enough statistically, it was the little nuances of the tournament that told the true story.

Honduras won three of their five games and drew their other two, running up a goal difference of 8-1.

But . . .

from Jeff Cross

Four of those goals came in the opening game against disorganised Haiti. Then, in the 2-1 win over Canada — a key game for both sides — their first goal by winger Carlos Orlando Caballero was a gift, courtesy of centre-back Ian Bridge who horribly messed up an attempted back-pass to goalkeeper Tino Lettieri. The second goal was the object of heated protests by the Canadians on the grounds of offside — and indeed linesman Downer Osmand of Trinidad had flagged — while Canada striker Branko Segota twice hit the posts with goalkeeper Julio Cesar Arzu beaten, and then was tripped just outside the box when he was in the clear. His free-kick was deflected off the defensive wall for a corner.

That was the closest Honduras came to defeat. Their 2-0 victory over Cuba was as convincing as the score, and their final two scoreless draws against El Salvador and Mexico followed a tactical plan which called for defeat to be avoided at all costs. The game against the unhappy Mexicans — well below expected form — came after Honduras had already clinched first place.

So Honduras go to Spain. And despite the "breaks" mentioned, it must be said that coach Jose de la Paz Herrera Ucles — who is known as "Chelato" or "Whitey" because of his non-swarthy complexion — organised his forces better than anyone else.

Herrera studied coaching in an Argentine FA course in 1968 and employs modern tactics far superior to others in this region — a well ordered defence, good touch soccer, permanent rotation in the best Menotti style (of whom he is a great admirer) and making the best use of free-kicks with an element of surprise.

Herrera, like Menotti in Argentina, is almost more popular than his players in his country and enjoys the same facilities to obtain the release of players from clubs, fully backed by his FA. He was thus able to concentrate the team for 10 months in 1980 and for seven this past year and he obviously had the best prepared team in the tournament . . . which is not quite the same as saying that they were the best.

Apart from their lengthy preparation at home, which included eight matches with only one defeat, Honduras also played six games in Europe, some against leading club sides in Spain's traditional pre-season tournaments, with a 1-1-4 record.

Honduras showed masterful ball control at least at this level of competition and were only let down at times by poor finishing — a fault of all teams in the tournament.

When the other contenders became frustrated, or were trapped into making rash moves in efforts to break down the opposition, the Hondurans never did. Throughout the tournament they were the only side to maintain pose and self-discipline as the long months of preparation paid off.

Honduras also had the individual star of the tournament in team captain Ramon Maradiaga, a 24-year-old midfielder who normally plays for first division Motagua for the princely sum of £170 a month, but who could play for any of the world's top club teams without disgrace.

Nicknamed El Primitivo — which explains itself — Maradiaga is at once the Alan Ball and the Nobby Stiles of Honduras.

Primitivo got his name from a priest who saw him playing football as a boy on a monastery field, in monsoon-like weather. His hair was plastered down, his face creased in the ferocious-looking scowl he still employs.

But Maradiaga is the heart of this Honduras team, a non-stop dynamo who gives the impression of being everywhere at once, pleading and exhorting his team-mates, yet still elegant in his tactical direction of attack and fierce in the tackle in defence.

But still this is not a one-man team. Julio Cesar Arzu does not have the height of most international goalkeepers, but is agile, covers his area diligently and, above all, has great hands.

A capsule comment on the back four might say "strong on the left, weak on the right, sometimes vulnerable to a quick attack through the middle."

Right back Efrain Gutierrez, one of several blacks in the side, was often in trouble moving forward and against the classy left-wingers he'll face in Spain, he must be counted as suspect. The same applies, to a lesser extent, to stopper Jaime Villegas, who showed an

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Honduras, back row, left to right: David Bueso, Erfrain Gutierrez, Jaime Villegas, Julio Cesar Arzu, Hector Zelaya, Anthony Costly. Front row: Fernando Bulnes, Raman Maradiaga, Carlos Orlando Caballero, Jorge Urquia, Roberto Figuero.

inclination to panic when any kind of quick-moving attack headed in his direction.

However, Villegas is good in the air, as is sweeper Anthony Costly, a tall, lithe, elegant performer and whose younger brother Junior is also in the Honduran squad.

The star of the defence is left-back Fernando Bulnes, one of a number of fine left-side defenders seen in Tegucigalpa. Strong in the tackle, quick to cover his defensive team-mates and equally quick to overlap down the wing, chunky little Bulnes easily handled all opposing wingers in the final round.

Midfield belongs to Maradiaga, who wears No. 6 and lines up on the left side, but regards the entire field as his zone. His partners in Tegucigalpa varied from game to game, with the attacking David Bueso and crunch-tackling Hector Zelaya the pick of those on view. Bueso will probably get one of the regular midfield spots in Spain, alongside El Primitivo, with the third berth in a 4-3-3 alignment going to Zelaya, Juan Murillo, Javier Toledo or Salvador Bernardes, all of whom were used in Tegucigalpa.

Bernardes, a strong, rangy player who likes to go forward, lays claim to being the best schemer in the team — after Maradiaga of course.

Experience may be the ingredient most lacking up front, though everyone is more than willing to shoot at every opportunity, if sometimes wildly.

Caballero is the nearest thing to an orthodox winger in the squad, though all the forwards switch around. Jimmy Bailey, one of the heroes of the earlier round and of pre-tournament exhibition games, was still recovering from a knee injury and was rarely used in the final round. Neither was Tony Laing (who rejoices in the name El Negro Rapido or The Black Express), another player from the northern part of the country where British influence is still very strong.

The striking positions are filled mainly by target-men Jorge Urquia and either Roberto Figueroa or Junior Costly, both of whom appear ready to run all day in search of even the most hopeless ball.

Entertaining, hard-working, positive — that's Honduras.

They probably won't get beyond the first round in Spain, though any team who take them lightly could quickly find themselves a couple of goals down.

Lack of experience (it will be their first World Cup, after all) could be their downfall. But it will not be surprising if Honduras prove one of the most popular sides in Spain.

And whatever they do, they'll have a great time doing it.

Raman Maradiaga of Honduras.

Brazil's pride and joy earn world acclaim

THREE Cups in seven days can't be bad.

No wonder Flamengo of Brazil, Rio's pride and joy, treated themselves to a club spree in Honolulu after gloriously earning the right to call themselves world club champions.

Even then, with the Brazilian season at an end for a few weeks, there was still more to come, with star forward Zico being voted South American Footballer of the Year in the poll conducted by El Mundo of Caracas.

It was the sum total of his contribution to winning those cups which did it. First the Carioca league title. Then, in Tokyo, less than a week later, Flamengo carried off the World Club Cup as well as the extra prize, the Toyota Cup, put up by the Japanese multinational whose cash backing has at last put the clash between the giants of South America and Europe on its feet.

The odd thing is that for many foreigners, Flamengo's achievements were the successes of a comparatively unknown club. For, talk of football anywhere in Brazil at least and Flamengo will always enter the conversation.

And it has always been so.

Flamengo's popularity rating is tops not only in their home city of Rio de Janeiro but all over the country, although it may be disputed by the fanatical Corinthians fans in Sao Paulo.

All over Brazil are thousands of boys who dream of nothing else but to wear the red and black hoops of Flamengo. A few hundred do in the club's numerous junior teams, but perhaps only one in a hundred realise their dream of stepping out to play with the first team.

As a result of an immense following, Flamengo virtually have home support wherever they play. In Rio they play to crowds which must be the envy of clubs all over the world. At the giant Maracana stadium the record gate of paying spectators was set up in an international between Brazil and Paraguay in 1969 — 183,341 — but a Flamengo-Fluminense Rio league derby in 1963 drew the second highest gate of 177,020. And of the 10 highest gates at the Maracana, six correspond to league matches in which Flamengo were involved and the other four to international matches featuring Brazil.

True, since 1914, Flamengo have won 28 Rio league and cup titles — nine since 1974 when possibly their greatest ever star, Zico, made his first division debut — but strangely they became Brazilian national champions for the first time only in 1980, entered the Libertadores Cup for the first time last year and won it at their first attempt.

But the club's popularity dates back to long before that.

An eminent Brazilian jurist, Dr Eliezer Rosa, who confesses to being a fan of Rio's America, once said that it is good for the people's behaviour, health and happiness when Flamengo win and that there should be a law under which they must win every game.

WORLD CHAMPIONS! — Flamengo skipper Zico holds up the World Club Cup surrounded by his delighted team-mates in Tokyo's National Stadium.

CLUBE DE REGATAS DO FLAMENGO

Founded: 1912.
President: Antonio A. Dunshee de Abranches.
Football director: Paulo Dantas.
Team supervisor: Domingo Bosco.
Coach: Paulo Cesar Carpegiani.
World Club Cup: 1981.
Libertadores Cup: 1981.
National ch'ship: 1980.
Guanabara State Cup: 1970, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981 (7).
Carioca ch'ship: 1914, 1915, 1920, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1939, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1963, 1965, 1972, 1974, 1978, 1979 (played twice), 1981 (21).
Stadium (all major matches): Maracana, Rio de Janeiro (175,000).
Colours: Red and black hoops/black.

When they lose, there are disturbances on the streets, the crime rate goes up and more wives are beaten by their husbands.

Flamengo were founded in 1895 as a rowing club. Every beach in Rio already had its rowing club at the time, but Flamengo beach didn't . . . which was a good enough reason to found the club who could now be considered to boast the best team in the world. Indeed the club still go under the name of Clube de Regatas do Flamengo and participate in regattas.

Soccer was incorporated only in 1912, as the result of a split among players of nearby Fluminense who are today Flamengo's main Rio rivals. But Flamengo's oarsmen would at first not let the footballers wear the red and black colours and conceded permission to do so only after the team won the Rio league title for the second year running in 1915.

It is frequently said that what Flamengo do today Brazil do tomorrow and the club have given the national team some outstanding players all through the years, from goalkeeper Amado in the 1920s, still Brazil's best ever, to forward Zico now. Others who spring to mind through the years are Domingos Da Guia, Waldemar de Brito, Leonidas da Silva — the famous "Black Diamond" — and more recently Zizinho, Zagalo, Gerson and Paulo Cesar Lima.

The current Brazilian national squad include defenders Junior and Leandro and winger Tita apart from Zico.

One thing, Flamengo rarely field foreigners. Only one has really managed to make his mark — Argentine striker Horacio Doval, the idol of the fans immediately before the arrival of Zico, and whose goals, happy if somewhat undisciplined soccer and fighting spirit helped win the Rio championships of 1972 and 1974.

In spite of the titles of the present team, many claim that Flamengo's best-ever team — if not the best club team Brazil have ever had — was produced in the 1950s under coach Fleitas Solich. His tactical concepts changed Brazil's soccer, then smarting under the World Cup defeats of 1950 at home and of 1954, and laid the foundation for World Cup victories in 1958 and 1962.

Flamengo won the Rio title three years running (1953-55) for the second time and most Brazilians can still recite the line-up by heart — Chamorro; Tomires, Pavao; Jadir, Dequinha, Jordan; Joel, Moacyr, Evaristo, Dida and Zagalo. That team played a 2-3-5 formation and Brazil's squad included the whole forward line (except Evaristo, who was by then playing for Spain's Barcelona) in Sweden when they won the 1958 World Cup.

File on
FLAMENGO
compiled by
KEIR RADNEDGE
in Tokyo and
ERIC WEIL
in South America

FLAMENGO FIRST-TEAM SQUAD

Player	Full Name	Pos.	Age	Caps
RAUL	Raul Guilherme Plassmann	G	37	8
CANTARELLI	Antonio Luiz Cantarelli	G	28	—
LUIS ALBERTO	Luis Alberto de Silva	G	29	—
LEANDRO	Jose Leandro de Souza Ferreira	RB	22	1
MOZER	Jose Carlos Nepomusena Mozer	CB	22	—
MARINHO	Mario Caetano Filho	CB	26	—
JUNIOR	Leovegildo Lin Gama Junior	LB	27	29
CARLOS ALBERTO	Carlos Alberto de Souza	RB	28	—
MANGUITO	Alberto Goncalvez	CB	28	—
NEI DIAS	Nei Severino Dias	FB	28	—
ANDRADE	Jorge Luiz Andrade da Silva	MF	24	—
ADILIO	Adilio de Oliveira Goncalvez	MF	25	—
VITOR	Vitor Luis Pereira da Silva	MF	22	2
PEU	Julio dos Santos Angelo	MF	21	—
LICO	Antonio Nunes	MF	30	—
ANSELMO	Jose Antonio Carlos Anselmo Pereira	MF	22	—
TITA	Milton Queiroz da Paixao	OR	24	8
NUNES	Joao Batista Nunes de Oliveira	CF	27	10
BARONINHO	Edson Guimaraes Baroni	OL	23	—
ZICO	Artur Antunes Coimbra	F	28	55
CHIQUINHO	Francisco Jose do Couto	F	22	—

Veteran goalkeeper Raul pulls down a cross to foil another Liverpool attack in Tokyo.

The longest period Flamengo ever went without a Rio league title was 12 years between 1927 and 1939 and then again for nine years after first winning it three times running (1942-4), until the second time under Fleitas Solich.

The third time "Fla" won three titles in a row was from 1978 to 1979 (when it was played for twice in the latter year) under Claudio Coutinho, who was also Brazil's national coach at the time.

Coutinho would not give up his "first love", Flamengo, whom he then considered the best club side in the world, and many blame his lack of success — in Brazil a third place, even if unbeaten, in the World Cup is lack of success — with the national team on his dual role at the time.

Today the coach is 32-year-old Paulo Cesar Carpegiani, who was still playing as Zico's midfield partner early in the season. In fact his farewell appearance came in the long-awaited clash last September between Flamengo and Argentine first division champions Boca Juniors in Rio de Janeiro which was billed as the battle of South America's midfield giants, Zico and Maradona. It was the first time they had been face to face on a soccer field and on the night Zico and Flamengo won hands down (2-0) . . . but Maradona played in spite of injury.

The Argentine club's veteran goalkeeper, Hugo Gatti, said after that match: "Flamengo's players really enjoy playing. They have fun and play the type of game we have forgotten a bit in Argentina, where we are tied down more to tactics."

Indeed Flamengo play what many call "happy soccer" with their gifted players not tied to stereotyped tactics. They always attack and try to hang on to the ball as much as possible in the way Brazil's national team attempt to play. On the surface Flamengo appear to lack discipline on the field and off. The players do not go off into hiding before a match; the dressing room swarms with journalists and hangers on right up to kick-off time; during training players frequently stop to talk to the press. This and their "happy soccer" are some of the reasons for their popularity.

But it goes back further than that. In their early days they trained on a public playing field belonging to the municipality. All Rio could come and watch their stars and talk to them. Flamengo were really identified with the town while other teams, training in their stadiums, were not so accessible, nor did fans get to know their players so intimately.

Carpeggiani says that Flamengo play this enjoyable style, because it has been a characteristic of the club for a long time and also his own phylosophy. "My job is made easier, because our whole squad are convinced that the only way to win is to play good soccer," he says.

It's a good job Flamengo players enjoy their game. Counting Rio league, national championship, Libertadores Cup and international friendly matches, Flamengo played around 80 games during 1981 . . . and it's like that most years.

In Raul they have a veteran goalkeeper with more titles than any other Brazilian player; Marinho and Mozer are creative centre-backs; Leandro and Junior, the flank defenders, are attacking-minded. Andrade, Adilio and Zico form a talented attacking midfield with the ball always going to Zico at some stage. Right winger Tita, centre forward, Nunes — their leading scorer with Zico — an Baroninho (with his powerful shots from the left) rotate well in attack, but Zico is the real danger man, lethal with penalities, free-kicks and long range shots, and not surprisingly, being the league's top scorer over the last few years — although last season he had to take second place to Vasco da Gama's Roberto Dinamita.

Salary

Zico — Arturo Antunes Coimbra — is Brazil's best paid player by far with a reported monthly salary of 23,700 dollars. Even Flamengo, perhaps the only club who made a profit from the Libertadores Cup of around 750,000 dollars according to their officials, are finding it hard to pay the player that much.

Zico, 28, says the has the secret of eluding close markers and he certainly showed it in the three final matches of last season's Libertadores Cup against hard-marking Cobreloa of Chile when he scored all four Flamengo goals. Zico, who is Brazil's soccer idol today, says he is lucky to have made it to Flamengo's first team while so many never realised that dream and he likes their way of always playing to win and to entertain.

"The fans always shout for us to attack and wouldn't have it any other way. That has sometimes brought problems for us when we have tried to please them and got disorganised. Attacking all the time is all right, but one of the basics is not to rush things. One must know how to make the best use of your rivals' slightest mistake," he says.

Flamengo's average age is 24.27, which may not appear all that high. But, taking into account the hot climate and the intensive demands which shorten players careers — younger men will soon have to be brought in. With their number of youth teams and the fact that almost everyone wants to play for Flamengo, they should not have much of a problem.

The more urgent question in Brazil now however is whether Flamengo's success will rub off on the national team in Spain.

Things they say . . .

ZICO'S FUTURE IS SECURE IN BRAZIL

PAULO DANTAS
Flamengo football director

How important is the World Club Cup to Flamengo?

"For us this was the one game in which we had wanted to take part for a very long time. It's so important you can hardly imagine. I think half the country must have watched it on television. It was more important than even the Libertadores final — though, of course, we had to win that first. And we had some hard games against the Chileans, Cobreloa! But they started the trouble."

Was it true that one of your players, Anselmo, was sent off without having kicked the ball?

"Yes, but it's a long story. They had attacked our players both in the game in Santiago and during the play-off in Montevideo. Just before the end of the game one of the Chilean players hit one of our men with his elbow — it could have blinded him. So we sent one of our men to do the same."

Did you expect him to be sent off?

"Yes, sure we did. He went on to the pitch to do exactly what he did. You understand? We could afford it, we were winning 2-0. There were only a few minutes left."

Is that typical of Flamengo's approach to big games?

"No, of course not. With these Chileans it was different. They weren't very nice to us. They hit us from the beginning of the final to the end. In Brazil we have got used to some hard fouls, but in Santiago these Chileans hit us with their fists and in places where footballers aren't used to being hit!"

ZICO
Flamengo and Brazil

What's the secret of your success?

"No secrets. The most important thing for anyone playing professional football is to maintain your love of the game. After that comes all the work you put in to improve your technique. Finally it helps to play in a good team — not just a successful one, either, but a team where everyone gets on well both on and off the pitch."

How do you react when people call you the 'White Pele'?

"I don't like to hear it. You could never compare us. Pele was the greatest player of all time and as a Brazilian I'm very proud of what he achieved for our nation and I was sad when the time came for him to retire. A lot of players thought they might copy Pele, step into his shoes. But they all failed and I've no intentions of even trying. I'm happy to be Zico and I don't want to be saddled with a 'White Pele' reputation when it comes to the World Cup!"

What are Brazil's chances in Spain?

"I think we have a good chance. I can't promise we'll win for a fourth time but we do have a fine team and we won't be far away."

Will you go to Italy or Spain after the World Cup?

"My contract with Flamengo expires in 1983 and I would like to stay. I'm happy with the club and with my team-mates and unless something unexpected cropped up I must say that since I began my career with Flamengo I would like also to finish it with them."

To outsiders your career appears to have been a long string of successes – is that how you see it?

"No, I don't. Where I was fortunate was in coming from a family who gave me a good upbringing so I was able to cope with my disappointment when I was dropped from the Olympic side when I was a young player, and again when things went wrong for me in the last World Cup in Argentina. But if it hadn't been for the failures I probably wouldn't have gained the resilience to achieve what I have. With Flamengo, after all, I've won all there is: Brazilian championship, Rio league, Libertadores Cup and now the World Club Cup."

Was it true you all relaxed in the second half against Liverpool?

"No, in the recent league play-off in Rio it was only in the last two minutes that our opponents scored a goal which might have cost the title. I've never been under any illusions about the game being won until the final whistle. Even when we went 2-0 and then 3-0 up against Liverpool, we never believed that was enough. We could have scored a couple more in the second half if their goalkeeper (Bruce Grobbelaar) hadn't made a couple of good saves."

ANTONIO DE ABRANCHES
Flamengo President

What does the World Club Cup success mean to Flamengo?

"It's everything. But I'm also glad we played well enough to maintain Brazil's reputation as the greatest football nation in the world. It's all very appropriate: this is the third time a Brazilian team have won the title, and Brazil have also won the World Cup three times. We were obviously meant to succeed . . ."

Zico of Brazil

How do you feel about Zico's future?

"Stories about him going to play in Italy are the biggest lies I've ever heard. No other club has the power, authority or resources to look after Zico the way we can."

PAULO CESAR CARPEGIANI
Flamengo coach

How long have you been in charge?

"Just about six months — filled with very good luck. As a player I was fortunate, too. Inside one four-year spell I had a hand in winning the Guanabara cup four times, the national championship once and the Rio league three times."

When were you suddenly switched from player to coach?

"I took over from Dino Sani after the first two games of the Libertadores campaign and we made a bad start with a 1-1 draw against Olimpia of Asuncion. Slowly things began to improve. We drew 2-2 with Atletico Mineiro, the other Brazilians in our group, and then went from strength to strength."

How many matches did your team play last year?

"I think it's 77. The game against Liverpool was the last. Then we went off to Honolulu for a club holiday with our wives. I think the fact that we play so many games is good for us. In the closing stages of the season, when we were playing the final matches in both the Libertadores and the Rio league, we had one spell with 12 games in 30 days — all of them vital. We react well under pressure. It's when we relax we start making silly mistakes."

File on FLAMENGO compiled by KEIR RADNEDGE in Tokyo and ERIC WEIL in South America

Junior is the best left back

AT TIMES the Brazilian habit of bestowing professional nicknames on their players can be totally confusing. At others it can be a god-send.

One such latter case is the man who is now, without much doubt, the best left-back in the world. He's named Leovegildo Lins Gama Junior. But the world game knows him — and will know him even better after the World Cup finals — as plain and simple Junior.

Simple the name may be, but not the man. Far from it. Junior is a long way from the traditional idea of the professional footballer, who whiles away the time when he isn't training or playing by playing cards and propping up a nightclub bar.

Junior is studying business management. And when you enter a conversation with him you're as likely to wind up talking about the state of the national economy as you are to talk about football.

Now 27 — he was born in Joao Pessoa on June 29, 1954 — Junior has just enjoyed the most successful year in his career. Flamengo's victories in Rio league and World Club Cup weren't the only icing on the cake. Junior was also an outstanding member of the Brazilian national team who took Europe by storm at the start of last summer and he also ran up his 500th first-team appearance for the club.

The setting couldn't have been stage-managed better. For the game was a league duel with Botafogo — the club who had once cast Junior off as a youngster without a future. Junior certainly had his revenge: he was in fine form as Flamengo swept to a 6-0 win!

That first setback had come when Junior was 19, a boy who had already earned a local reputation playing for one of the hundreds of beach teams who abound on the Copacabana. The team were called Juventus, but Junior never looked as far afield as Italy for his heroes: he's always been a Flamengo supporter.

Which was why he's pleased, looking back, that Botafogo did pass him over. That left the way clear for Flamengo to pick him up and push him into their youth set-up in 1973.

One more year and the attention of all Brazilian fans was focused on the World Cup finals in West Germany. Brazil finished fourth, to the anger of the *torcida*. But one of the great strengths of Brazilian football has been the ability to produce, apparently overnight, wave upon wave of new talent. And Junior was a part of the new wave of 1974.

Originally a midfielder, he was now a left back — a switch enforced by circumstances when he was playing in one of the Flamengo youth teams. The left back was injured, so Junior dropped back. And though several later attempts were made to move him back into midfield, it was thanks to the late Claudio Coutinho, after he took over at Flamengo in the mid-1970s, that Junior was encouraged to regard the left back position as his own.

In 1974, his first year in the senior team, Junior helped Flamengo win the Rio league. After that the trophies came thick and fast. Rio and Guanabara titles mixed in with a Brazilian championship success in 1980 and various cups in a series of pre-season tournaments in Spain.

Wins in Palma de Mallorca, at the Trofeo Ramon de Carranza in Cadiz, in Santander and even in Italy at the Naples Spring competition last year all added to his experience and his reputation.

With the long-range demands of the Brazilian championship, plus tours to Europe with Flamengo and the national team, Junior reckoned that last year he spent more time flying than playing football — even though he, like fellow Flamengo international regular Zico, must have played more than the statutory maximum of 80 games in the year.

As with most players, the men Junior admires most are those who have filled his own position.

Nilton Santos, the great Botafogo left back who played in Brazil's 1958 and 1962 World Cup-winning sides, was a boyhood hero. More recently Junior has been impressed by Paul Breitner — in the attacking left back role he fulfilled for West Germany in 1974 — and then by the Italian, Antonio Cabrini.

But ask him about forwards, and Junior has praise for few players other than Zico.

"He's the most creative player I've seen since Pele. Maradona's very good. One day he could be the best in the world. He has all the gifts. But I think he needs to improve his heading and his right foot. Then he'll be ready!"

Not, hopefully, thinks Junior, for this World Cup in Spain. Even though he had a key role in the victories by Brazil over West Germany last year — in the Mundialito, and then in Europe Junior isn't making the mistake of many Brazilian commentators, players and coaches, and underestimating the European champions.

"When we played against them we were on the crest of a wave. We had won against England at Wembley for the first time ever, and we had beaten France in Paris. We were in the middle of our season, the Europeans were tiring, and at the end of theirs.

"So when we played against West Germany we had much the better chances of winning — which we did. But I don't think that means too much for the World Cup."

Junior scored the late winner against West Germany last summer, his extraordinary free kick dipping and curling under the bar after he had caught substitute goalkeeper Eike Immel out of position.

But Junior said: "I might even make West Germany my personal favourites to win the World Cup in Spain. They were disappointing in Argentina in 1978, but they have been altering their style and, in the two games we played against them last year, had improved noticeably from one to the other.

"Spain will do well, of course, because they're the hosts. Argentina, too because they still have most of the players with whom they won in 1978.

"As for Brazil, we're all confident we can get to the Final. What happens then is anyone's guess. Personally I'm not happy that we're favourites. But I'm sure, also, that we have the ability to win.

"We could do with a couple of really tough warm-up games. Say, against Argentina. The trouble is, they don't really seem to want to play us. I suppose they're nervous about the psychological effect if they lose."

That's one man's view of the immediate future. But beyond that Junior has plenty of ideas, too. He's no mindless footballer. He knows there are other values than those surrounding football and he never allows anything to come between his 'other' life — the dancing, the music and the close relationship with his three brothers.

When, in mid-April, Brazil take their squad into semi-seclusion in preparation for the World Cup finals, Junior won't be best pleased. Though he accepts the need to bring players together he's never been an admirer of the concentration system.

Before a home game with Flamengo you might often find him strolling along the beach in the morning, and there's no way he'll give up his daily can of beer.

WORLD CLUB CUP FINAL

THE World Club Cup is back on its feet. After years of bitter feuding between the champions of South America and Europe one of the international game's most logical events appears to have taken root in a "safe" setting – Tokyo, capital of Japan. With the organisation coming from the Japanese FA, and the cash from Toyota, there seems no reason why this arrangement should not continue. The travel complexities are the only difficulty – but by switching the latest final between Liverpool and Flamengo to December, the organisers appear to have come close to the best of football's possible worlds. Here World Soccer *takes a look back at Tokyo in December . . .*

Key man — Zico with his Toyota prize car.

Adilio wins a midfield duel with Souness.

Tokyo's National Stadium.

What it was all about.

Happy Liverpool — before the game.

The World Club Cup.

Photography

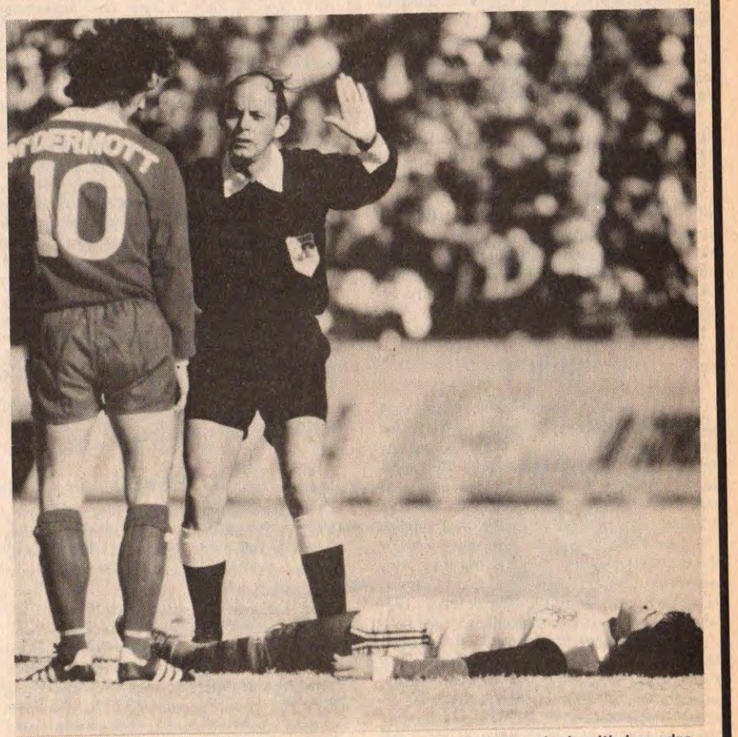
PICTURES POSTSCRIPT

Rival stars — Dalglish and Zico.

Flamengo president Antonio de Abranches celebrates with two-goal hero Nunes.

Craig Johnston, Liverpool's best player.

The Toyota Cup.



Referee Mario Vasquez waves away Terry McDermott after a clash with Leandro.

PETER ROBINSON

World Reviews by Eric Batty and Eric Weil

YUGOSLAVIA AND BRAZIL TOP CHARTS

DESPITE West Germany's runaway success in the World Cup qualifiers, it's Yugoslavia who come out on top in Europe in our annual survey of the past year's results.

As the table shows, only the Yugoslavs and Russia were unbeaten during 1981 — and in fact the Russians are unbeaten for two years under manager Konstantin Beskov.

But the biggest surprise is the fine performance of Denmark who stand a proud second behind Miljan Miljanic's Yugoslavs.

Before we go any further, a word of explanation about the table is probably necessary. Because each country plays a different number of games the only way to achieve any form of comparison is on the basis of percentage success.

Thus points gained (on the two-for-a-win, one-for-a-draw system) are expressed as a percentage of points possible. And on this basis the Danes achieved a success rating of 88.8 per cent even though they are so dependent on the unreliable release of their foreign-based professionals.

Contracts

Grouped with England in the 1984 European Championship, I expect them to give England a difficult time, particularly in Copenhagen. Most of the foreign-based Danes have a clause in their contracts which guarantees their release for competitive internationals. But over the years many of them have not insisted on this right for games against lowly opponents.

But now it appears that the Danish players really believe they can make a mark in the international arena and a fine team spirit has been developed. At all events, key men like Frank Arnesen (Valencia) and Allan Simonsen (CF Barcelona) will both feature prominently in their games against England, and they have many more improving players.

Miljan Miljanic has done his usual fine job for Yugoslavia, steering them once more to the World Cup Finals. But he, too, is dependent on foreign-based professionals. And Yugoslavia underline a point that is often not appreciated by critics of England manager Ron Greenwood. Miljanic is successful because he has a lot of really talented players at his disposal, and a manager cannot do a good job without the necessary resources in terms of human material.

Skill

As far as Yugoslavia are concerned, I cannot remember ever seeing a Yugoslav side — at any level, that did not really impress me in terms of skill and understanding. They seem to produce players almost at will, while really gifted players in Western Europe have become in really short supply.

I expect the Yugoslavs to produce a lot of good quality football in Spain, but they, too, are short of natural goal-scorers and I cannot see them penetrating the best defences regularly enough to even reach the final.

As far as England are concerned, I believe that they are in fact two teams. When Ron Greenwood can turn out a team which includes all his experienced players, Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking in particular, they can look very good. But as they did away to Norway when these two were absent they can be made to look very ordinary indeed.

Milan Jankovic of Yugoslavia.

That makes me very fearful for the future for neither Brooking nor Keegan can go on playing well at top level for much longer. As far as the World Cup is concerned, I believe that just one player could transform the England team — a centre-forward like Geoff Hurst, who made intelligent runs off the ball; was always available as a target and laid off quality balls, and on top of that scored goals consistently.

But where is there such a player available for England now?

West Germany had a 100 per cent record in their eight World Cup qualifying games. But their 1981 figures were marred by South Americans. Last January they were in Uruguay for the Gold Cup and went down 1-2 to Argentina and 1-4 to Brazil.

Interval

The Germans were also beaten at home by Brazil (1-2) but one up at the interval. I think Jupp Uerwall made a grave error by changing his team for the second half, and it cost them dearly.

But Derwell's position is secure as "der Chief". In almost 50 years the Germans have had only three national team bosses and it would be unbelievable for the DFB to sack Herr Derwall unless he really did something silly. The progress made by the Russians needs to be underlined. At a time when goal-scorers are in short supply they appear to have a string of them and their team has been transformed by the inclusion of Georgian and Ukrainian players.

The popular image of Russian players as physically well-prepared automats is a thing of the past and if the Russians may not win the World Cup in Spain I believe they will impress a lot of people with their brand of football. And if they showed at Wrexham (0-0 v. Wales) that they can defend and counter-attack very efficiently, their team is really geared to attack and they have a lot of naturally-gifted players with a high degree of individual ability.

Sixth

Hungary and Switzerland look very good according to their performances on paper but I don't feel they justify sixth and fifth places respectively. The Swiss have clearly benefitted from the introduction of professionalism by their leading clubs but real talent is still in short supply there.

The Hungarians still suffer among their fans by comparison with their "Golden team" but even more, they are a temperamental race. They can look good against ordinary teams at home in Budapest but seem to lack the will to win and belief in themselves when it comes to meeting strong sides away, and I cannot see them making an impact in Spain.

Supply

Overall there has been a great levelling down in the international arena. Really good players are in very short supply, particularly forwards. This levelling down was underlined very clearly when little Luxembourg who lost all their six games in 1981 were beaten only 1-0 in Italy. Defensive tactics and better physical preparation have transformed the game and it is very difficult to see how the game as a whole is going to be able to produce the sort of entertainment that the fans demand these days.

The only teams that look likely to do consistently well in 1982, and make any real impact in the World Cup are West Germany and Russia. After them who are fortunate to have very good front players, there is a big gap, and the majority of European countries are of roughly equal standing. A game, for example, between fifth-placed Switzerland and Belgium (18th) would probably be determined by home advantage and that underlines my view that most European countries have levelled off at more or less the same standard and that is not particularly high.

	P	W	D	L	Goals F	Goals A	Success %
1. Yugoslavia	6	5	1	0	17	5	91.6
2. Denmark	9	8	0	1	20	10	88.8
3. Russia	6	4	2	0	13	1	83.3
4. West Germany	11	8	0	3	35	10	72.7
5. Switzerland	8	4	3	1	10	9	68.7
6. Hungary	9	5	2	2	16	8	66.6
7. Scotland	9	5	2	2	11	6	66.6
8. Poland	11	7	0	4	23	14	63.6
9. Holland	8	4	2	2	12	7	62.5
10. Sweden	8	5	0	3	10	7	62.5
11. Spain	12	6	3	3	17	12	62.5
12. Wales	8	3	3	2	8	8	56.2
13. Greece	8	4	1	3	12	12	56.2
14. Czechoslovakia	10	4	3	3	19	10	55.0
15. East Germany	7	3	1	3	15	8	50.0
16. Austria	6	2	2	2	8	6	50.0
17. Bulgaria	15	6	3	6	22	21	50.0
18. Belgium	6	3	0	3	8	10	50.0
19. N. Ireland	6	2	2	2	3	4	50.0
20. Italy	9	2	4	3	8	13	44.4
21. France	7	3	0	4	12	11	42.0
22. Eire	6	2	1	3	9	12	41.6
23. Romania	11	3	3	5	9	10	40.9
24. Israel	5	2	0	3	7	7	40.0
25. Iceland	5	1	2	2	6	12	40.0
26. Portugal	9	3	1	5	11	17	38.8
27. England	9	2	2	5	7	9	33.3
28. Finland	8	2	0	6	8	25	25.0
29. Malta	4	1	0	3	3	13	25.0
30. Norway	8	1	1	6	7	15	18.7
31. Cyprus	5	0	0	5	2	12	0.0
32. Albania	4	0	0	4	1	14	0.0
33. Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	1	15	0.0
34. Turkey	5	0	0	5	0	13	0.0

WITH World Cup qualifying matches last year and warm-up games to prepare for them, activity at national team level was quite intense in South America.

Fifty-four matches were played by the ten South American countries, including 18 in three World Cup qualifying rounds and five in the Gold Cup tournament in Montevideo at the beginning of the year . . . but only one country ventured abroad — Brazil, who won three matches against strong opposition in Europe (England 1-0, France 3-1, West Germany 2-1) which immediately put them among this year's World Cup favourites.

Earlier Brazil had the easiest World Cup passage with Bolivia and Venezuela as group rivals, but for once they also played several other matches away from home, all with good results to finish with a 12-3-1 record in 16 games — more than any other country played — but they still refused to play Argentina whose coach, Menotti, had wanted to fix-up matches. They only clashed once last year in the Gold Cup tournament when the result was 1-1, meaning that Argentine teams under Menotti (since 1974) have still not been able to beat Brazil.

Brazil top-scored 39 goals (with ten against), but their total was boosted by two 6-0 wins — highest of the year — against weak Ecuador away and Ireland (represented by a League of Ireland selection) at home.

Uruguay and Chile had the next best records last year, but while Chile impressed far more in qualifying for the World Cup finals and in other friendly matches, Uruguay's early promise, when they won the Gold Cup at home, fizzled out as they failed to qualify for the World Cup finals. Critics say that Uruguay's Gold Cup win was detrimental as it gave them false confidence that their rather mediocre, but rough, soccer would pull them through. It didn't, as Peru's better soccer won the day.

Argentina, the World Cup holders, had a poor year internationally and without the necessity of World Cup qualifying matches they played only four full internationals. After failing to take their expected place in the Gold Cup final (although they did not lose either of their two matches) they went on a European tour facing only club sides (not counted in the accompanying statistics) and failed to impress — even being beaten by Barcelona — and showing how much they depended on midfielder Maradona. This was confirmed when towards the end of the year they faced two European national teams at home without Maradona — who refused to train with the squad and was kicked out — losing 2-1 to Poland and drawing 1-1 with Czechoslovakia.

Venezuela's 1981 record of 3-1-5 may be their best ever and it does include their first-ever World Cup win (1-0 at home v. Bolivia) and a rather surprising home draw with the Soviet Union, but they did not face the strongest of rivals in other games, also meeting the Dutch West Indies twice at home, losing one and winning one narrowly.

Peru are the third South American World Cup qualifiers in spite of their comparatively poor 1981 record. It must be pointed out, however, that they only functioned as a team when Brazilian coach Elba de Padua Lima took over and six players were brought home from foreign clubs to strengthen the World Cup side. Without them they had lost their other four full internationals played during the year.

Apart from West Germany, Italy and Holland, who participated in the Gold Cup tournament, five other European sides played full internationals here — Czechoslovakia and Spain (four each), Bulgaria (three), Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONAL TEAM STATISTICS — 1981

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Total W	Total D	Total L	Total F	Total A	%
Brazil	16	5	0	0	17	2	7	3	1	22	8	12	3	1	39	10	84
Chile	13	4	2	1	11	3	3	2	1	6	4	7	4	2	17	7	69
Uruguay	8	3	1	1	8	6	1	2	0	3	2	4	3	1	11	8	69
Argentina	4	0	1	1	2	3	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	1	5	5	50
Venezuela	9	3	1	3	5	6	0	0	2	0	8	3	1	5	5	14	39
Peru	8	1	1	3	5	7	1	1	1	3	5	2	2	4	8	12	37
Colombia	9	0	4	1	5	6	1	0	3	4	6	1	4	4	9	12	33
Bolivia	7	2	0	3	9	11	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	5	10	15	29
Ecuador	6	1	1	2	2	9	0	0	2	1	5	1	1	4	3	14	25
Paraguay	5	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	4	3	8	20

Total number of matches played 54 (including 18 World Cup qualifying, five Gold Cup tournament in Montevideo, 31 friendlies).

54 matches played

January
*Argentina 2 West Germany 1
*Uruguay 2 Italy 1
*Argentina 1 Brazil 1
*Brazil 4 West Germany 1
*Uruguay 2 Brazil 1
Venezuela 1 Dutch W. Indies 2
Venezuela 1 Dutch W. Indies 0
Bolivia 2 Czechoslovakia 1
Ecuador 1 Bulgaria 3
Bolivia 2 Czechoslovakia 5

February
†Venezuela 0 Brazil 1
†Bolivia 3 Venezuela 0
†Bolivia 1 Brazil 2
Venezuela 1 Soviet Union 1
Colombia 1 Brazil 1
Bolivia 1 Bulgaria 3
Peru 1 Czechoslovakia 3
Peru 1 Bulgaria 2
Ecuador 0 Brazil 6

March
†Venezuela 1 Bolivia 0
†Brazil 3 Bolivia 1
†Brazil 5 Venezuela 0
Chile 1 Colombia 0
Brazil 2 Chile 1
Paraguay 0 Colombia 2
Colombia 1 Chile 2

April
Chile 3 Peru 0
Chile 1 Uruguay 2

May
England 0 Brazil 1
France 1 Brazil 3
West Germany 1 Brazil 2
†Ecuador 1 Paraguay 0
†Ecuador 0 Chile 0
†Paraguay 3 Ecuador 1

June
†Paraguay 0 Chile 1
†Chile 2 Ecuador 0
†Chile 3 Paraguay 0
Venezuela 0 Spain 2

July
Colombia 1 Spain 1
Chile 1 Spain 1
Brazil 1 Spain 0
Uruguay 0 Chile 0
†Colombia 1 Peru 1
Peru 1 Chile 2

August
†Uruguay 3 Colombia 2
†Peru 2 Colombia 0
†Uruguay 1 Peru 2

September
†Peru 0 Uruguay 0
†Colombia 1 Uruguay 1
Chile 0 Brazil 0
Venezuela 1 Cuba 0
Brazil 6 Ireland 0

October
Argentina 1 Poland 2

November
Argentina 1 Czechoslovakia 1

*World Cup matches on neutral grounds except in case of home team Uruguay.
†World Cup qualifying matches.

CLUB FOCUS

by Arthur Rotmil

KAISERSLAUTERN LEAVE IMPRESSION

VERY few clubs in the world can lay such a claim to fame as the 1.FC Kaiserlautern. When West Germany won the World Cup for the first time in 1954, they boasted five men from this provincial club: Werner Kohlmeyer, Horst Eckel, Werner Liebrich and the brothers Fritz and Ottmar Walter.

Their success was all the more remarkable since just before the World Cup tournament in Switzerland, Kaiserslautern were beaten in the final of the German national championship by the outsiders Hanover by 5-1!

Many experts didn't give much for the chances of the national team manager, the wily fox Sepp Herberger, knew better. He figured that humiliated players would be even more determined and stimulated to show what they can do. He stuck with the "glorious five" from 1.FCK and was rewarded with the world title.

English fans didn't see all the 1954 world champions — because of an outbreak of jaundice among the national team, the side beaten by England 3-1 at Wembley in December 1954 included only three world champs — two from Kaiserslautern, Kohlmeyer and Liebrich. Kaiserslautern did later visit England in 1956 when they beat West Ham at Upton Park by 4-2 and left a memorable impression, not least on Manager Ron Greenwood. In 1972 the 1.FCK beat Stoke City in the UEFA-Cup on a 5-3 aggregate.

In fact, this is the only European competition the club has been involved in. They played altogether 30 matches, winning 16, drawing two and losing 12, with a goal tally of 63—47. Twice they got to the quarter-final but fell each time to other German clubs, in 1973 to Borussia Mönchengladbach in 1980 to Bayern Munich. Now they have reached the last eight again and oppose Real Madrid.

Not least because of their success in the 'fifties the 1.FCK have become members of he first professional league in West Germany, the Bundesliga at its inception in 1963. Before that the club often struggled in the old regional league and did not make an impact on German football until just after the last war.

In the early years the 1.FCK found the competition from the powerful clubs in the large cities, or population densities, too much for them. Kaiserslutern is an industrial centre in the Rhenish Palatinate (Pfalz), but it has a popultion of only 85,000.

Immediately the normal championship programme was resumed after World War II, the 1.FCK leapt to the forefront reaching the final which they lost to Nürnberg. It may not be generally known, that the Germans continued with a normal league programme through the first four years of war, and only between 1945 and 1947 were there no league games!

The 1.FCK's greatest league success were crammed into a period of seven years. They were champions in 1951 and 1953, became runners up in 1948, 1954 and 1955 and finished third in 1949. They were four times cup finalists: 1961, 1972, 1976 and 1981. But the team which did so well in the late 'forties and early 'fifties was no more when the club was admitted into the *Bundesliga* in 1963 in which they remained ever since. Their best performances were two third places in 1979 and 1980. The worst a 16th spot in 1968. How the 1.FCK has consolidated their positions becomes evident from their most recent placings — third, third and fourth.

Once Kaiserslautern was Germany's favourite team and their captain Fritz Walter had a status similar to that acquired by Franz Beckenbauer 20 years later. Their team was always renowned for attacking football and the fans flocked to the compact Betzenberg stadium to see the "red devils". The opposition always feared the atmosphere there and the power play of 1.FCK at home and wished them to be relegated — which I suppose is some sort of compliment!

In recent years the club continued the policy of spending money wisely. They have made some shrewd investments, like engaging cheaply one of the best goalkeepers in the world, Ronnie Hellstroem, who starred for Sweden in the 1974 and 1978 World Cups. The Swedes soon became a fixture on the Betzenberg, as the famous Roland Sandberg, Benno Magnusson and Benny Wendt followed Hellstroem.

Hellstroem was out of action just before the season was due to start. His badly pulled shoulder ligaments sidelined the now 32-year-old 'keeper for four months. Meanwhile the club is said to be interested in another Swede, the striker Torbjörn Nilsson (1FK Goeteborg) who at present leads the scorers list in the UEFA-Cup tournament with seven goals. Kaiserslalutern's current and most famous international is Hans-Peter Briegel, member of Germany's European championship winning team (1980), a 26-year-old who can play in defence, or midfield and is a real power house.

Peter Briegel of Kaiserslautern.

The 1.FCK was also fortunate in finding excellent team managers. Dietrich Weise and Erich Ribbeck, both now employed by the DFB (F.A.), are among he country's top coaches. The present boss is Karl-Heinz Feldkamp (47) who played as a junior and senior for his home club Rot-Weiss Oberhausen. He was there also as assistant manager. He then managed Wattenscheid (1971-1976), Arminia Bielefeld (1976-1978) since then with 1.FCK. But Feldkamp will be leaving the club at the end of the season; his destination is not yet known. He may be replaced by the well liked Weise who has just led the German youth side to a world title, after winning the European crown in the summer.

The club is excellently run. The former player, Jürgen "Atze" Friedrich was at 34 the youngest president in the *Bundesliga*, but he stood down this season after several years of success in favour of Udo Sopp, a clergyman and church counsellor! Fritz Walter remains one of the keenest fans of his former club and is still associated very closely with the "Pfälzer".

All signs point to the conclusion that the 1.FC Kaiserslautern will continue to play a major role in West German football and their forthcoming clashes in Europe with Real Madrid should show whether the "Lauterer", as they are popularly known, are strong enough to survive at the highest level internationally. Within three days of the pairing with Real in the UEFA-Cup quarter-final the club received 45,000 applications for tickets! That was in December and the ties are not due till March . . .

The Betzenberg ground holds only 34,500 and the admission prices had not even been announced by then!

1. F.C. KAISERSLAUTERN

Founded: 2 July 1900. **Address:** Stadion Betzenberg, 6750 Kaiserslautern. **Honours:** Champions 1951, 1953. Runners up: 1948, 1954, 1955. Cup finalists 1961, 1972, 1976, 1981.

Club president: Udo Sopp. **Team manager:** Karl-Heinz Feldkamp. **Business manager:** Norbert Thines. **Treasurer:** Dr. Walter Greiner.

Club colours: Red and white. **Playing dress:** Red shirts, red shorts, red socks. **Club membership:** 3,800. **Sections:** Football, Handball, Ladies football, Athletics, Hockey, Boxing and Basketball.

Squad

Goalkeepers: Ronnie Hellstroem b.21.2.1949, with the club since 1974, prev. IF Hammarby. 79 caps for Sweden. — Armin Reichel, b.31.1.1958 with club since 1973, prev. SV Glan-Munchweiler.

Defenders: Hans-Peter Briegel, b.11.10.1955, with club since 1975, prev. SV Rodenbach and TV Rodenbach. 22 caps. — Michael Schuhmacher b.20.8.1957, joined 1981, prev. SC Ludwigshafen, Borussia Mönchengladbach. — Michael Dusek b.10.11.1958, joined 1977, prev. SV Niederwörresbach. One B-cap. — Hansgünther Neues b.14.11.1950, joined 1977, prev. VfR Büttgen, VfR Neuss, Fortuna Cologne and Rot-Weiss Essen. One B-cap. — Wolfgang Wolf, b. 24.9.1957, joined 1976, prev. VfR Hettenleidelheim/Pfalz. — Andreas Brehme b.9.11.1960, joined 1981, prev. Barmbek-Uhlenhorst, FC Saarbrüken.

Midfield: Hannes Bongartz b.3.10.51, joined 1978, prev. Preussen Duisdorf Bonner SC, Wattenscheid and Schalke. 4 full and 9 B-caps. — Lutz Eigendorf b.16.7.1956 joined 1979, prev. Dynamo Berlin. 6 caps for East Germany. — Norbert Eilenfeldt b.17.2.1956, joined 1981, prev. Karnap, Mülheim, Rot-Weiss Essen and Arminia Bielefeld. 2 B-caps. — Friedhelm Funkel b.10.12.1953, joined 1980, prev. VfR Neuss and Bayer Uerdingen. 2 B-caps. — Werner Melzer b.2.5.1954, joined 1974, prev. FK Clausen. 3 B-caps.

Forwards: Axel Brummer b.25.11.1961, joined 1979, prev. SG Partenheim, FSV Mainz. — Rainer Geye b.22.11.1949, joined 1977, prev. 48/99 Duisburg, Eintracht Duisburg, Fortuna Düsseldorf. 4 full and 7 B-caps. — Erhard Hofeditz b.7.12.1953, joined 1980, prev. VfL Wolfhagen, VfL Kassel, Hessen Kassel, KSV Baunatal and 1860 Munich. — Bruno Hübner b.28.1.1961, joined 1981 prev. SV Mainz-Kastel. — Jon Won Park b.12.4.1955, joined 1981, prev. Seol/South Korea. 55 caps for South Korea.

All time greats–Fritz Walter

Genius who helped rebuild a nation

THE West Germans have had their soccer heroes, notably in the 'seventies, when their national team and club sides dominated world football on an unprecedented scale, but few of those greats could compare for popularity with the famous Fritz Walter, writes ARTHUR ROTMIL.

He became the epitomy, a symbol of the post-war efforts of the Germany people who were recovering from the trauma of defeat and were desperately trying to re-establish themselves and become accepted by the family of nations. Their World Cup triumph on that memorable July 4, 1954 did more, according to international sociologists, to restore German pride than any other single event in the immediate post-war era.

The Germans, admitted to international football again, only four years earlier, travelled to Switzerland for the finals as rank outsiders. They were beaten 8-3 by the great Hungarians in the preliminary group match and the brilliant Magyars were made cast iron favourites to win the world title.

Crowd

When the two countries met in the Final in Bern and Hungary led 2-0 after just nine minutes play, just a few among the 30,000 German fans in the crowd would have given a pfennig for their team's chances. It was then that the Germans demonstrated their fighting spirit; in one of the greatest comebacks in history they overhauled the Magyars to win 3-2.

Walter, the team captain, was carried shoulder high by his exultant compatriots in the Wankdorf stadium. He, who together with his brother Ottmar orchestrated the German attack, was then the first "Kaiser" in German football, only nobody actually called him that – the Germans were still sensitive about bestowing pompous titles, so soon after the war.

But Fritz Walter and his men did more to boost morale in the country than any other band of sportsmen.

Forget

Later German national teams were perhaps consistently more successful, yet not one will ever forget the first World Cup triumph in 1954, or the famous Fritz. His name is also indelibly connected with his one and only club 1.FC Kaiserslautern, with whom he won two championship medals.

Fritz Walter was born on October 31, 1920. Some of his records in international football are unique. His career in national colours spans 18 years! He celebrated his debut on July 14, 1940 with a hat-trick in a 9-3 win over Romania at Frankfurt.

At nearly 34 he became a world champion, at 38 he played in a World Cup semi-final (v. Sweden, 1958) – his last international. Even at 42 years of age, the then national team boss Sepp Herberger asked Walter if he would like to play in the 1962 World Cup finals in Chile! Fritz politely declined. He played altogether in 61 internationals, scoring 33 goals.

He would almost certainly have played 100 times for Germany if the war hadn't intervened; between 1942 and 1950 the Germans played no internationals. They were re-admitted again five years after the war ended and the first country to visit them was Switzerland. Walter was 22 when the enforced break came – he was 30 and a mature footballer when internationals were resumed.

Walter was two-footed with a brilliant technique on the ball, acceleration, vision and a deadly shot, especially from set pieces. His most spectacular goal was talked about for about for years. In a friendly match at Karl-Marx-Stadt Walter dived forward full-length and whilst supporting himself on the ground with both hands he hit the ball with his heel (!) overhead and into the net!

As the captain of the national side he was indeed, as the Germans say, "the extended arm of the national manager" on the field. Often just a signal with a finger from the bench was enough to alert Fritz Walter as to what Herberger wanted changed tactically.

Walter was indeed Herberger's favourite pupil. They used to go for long walks together before important internationals to discuss their own players, but also the opposition in detail. Nothing was left to chance in the most thorough preparation of which Herberger was a specialist.

Match

Walter's footballing brain enabled him to counter any measures the opposition had in store against his team once the match had begun.

Amazing to think that he played as a part-timer for £8 a week. In those days there was no full time professional football in Germany. And he nearly gave up the game after a terrible match against France in Paris in 1952, at the age of 32.

Herberger talked him out of it and two years later Fritz Walter was the captain of the world champion team. For his services to the national side he was awarded the permanent title of "Ehrenspielführer" (honary captain) of the national team. Since then, only Uwe Seeler was and Franz Beckenbauer will shortly be thus honoured.

Many German experts claim that no other of their footballers has ever reached the genius of Fritz Walter, although one has to be careful in comparing today with yesterday, or with day before yesterdays. Who knew where the town of Kaiserslautern was situated before their football club won two championship titles under the inspired leadership of Fritz Walter?

Who can say that the Germans would have become world champions without him? Today Fritz Walter is a representative of the world famous sports equipment firm "Adidas", of the ball manufacturers "Derby-Star" and owner of a thriving advertising agency.

He remains closely linked with football, watches most of Kaiserslautern's games and helps out at 'Radio Luxembourg' as a football analyst. And not forgetting the fine welfare work he performs in special prisons for juvenile delinquents. . . .

MENOTTI ON THE WAY OUT

by Keir Radnedge

CESAR LUIS MENOTTI is on the way out . . . or, at least, he will be after July 11.

That's the date of the World Cup Final in Madrid, the date which will also bring to an end a remarkable era in the history of Argentine football.

For that is when Menotti's contract runs out and he has made it clear several times over that he will then step down after almost eight years in charge.

You would think it was more than eight years, comparing pictures of the bright-eyed man who took over from Vladislao Cap in 1974 with shots now of the gaunt, grey-haired, hawk-nosed individual who nearly made chain-smoking respectable.

But then, that's the effect of nearly a decade turning Argentine football on its head despite all the contradictory demands of association officials, clubs and despairing bankers.

When Menotti took over, Argentine football was feared for the 'dirty tricks' legacy from clubs such as Estudiantes de la Plata, World Club Cup-winners in 1968. Now, as Menotti prepares to call it a day, Argentine football is once more feared — but this time for the brilliant skills and devastating finishing power demonstrated by Menotti's star pupils, Diego Maradona, Mario Kempes, Osvaldo Ardiles and Ramon Diaz.

Menotti holds the total respect of his players.

Before the 1978 finals he excluded from his squad of 22 the youthful Maradona, who took the decision badly to say the least, storming away from the training camp at Jose C. Paz, outside Buenos Aires.

Maradona also left a few choice phrases hanging in the air. But a few months later, agonising over commercial contracts being pressed on him, he was sensible enough to go back to Menotti, with an apology, for advice.

The rest, as they say, you know. . . .

But while his players are close to Menotti in a football sense, Menotti the man remains carefully separate, his private life remarkably well protected for such a public man.

Comfortable

Born on November 5, 1938, in Rosario, Menotti was an only child for whom life was quite comfortable until the death of his father, when the son was 16. Menotti immediately quit college to start work to support himself and his mother, who now lives at Menotti's home together with his wife and two children.

One way to earn some extra cash was playing for a series of minor teams to pick up match pay, before he was signed by the No. 1 club in Rosario, called Rosario Central.

It took only six games in the reserves for him to impress the managers and move on up to the first team midfield.

Menotti was hardly surprised. It was what he had always believed he was meant for. He recalls: "I always loved football. While my other childhood friends played with little cars or train sets I played with a football."

He stayed at Rosario until 1959, then moved on several times in quick succession. First came a spell with Racing of Buenos Aires, then Boca Juniors and then he became one of a number of Argentines to try their luck in the first major attempt to get soccer off the ground in the United States.

New York Generals signed him, but the cool, strolling Menotti wasn't everyone's idea of a crowd-puller.

John Smith, now chief executive with English second division leaders, Luton, was working for the Generals during Menotti's spell in New York. He remembers Menotti as the player "who wore out the centre circle."

Menotti himself says: "I was more of a thinking footballer than an athlete." But he moved forward to great effect in one game, scoring a hat-trick in a friendly against the Santos and so impressing Pele that the Brazilian club signed him.

It wasn't the most successful of partnerships, however, and Menotti stayed only a year before becoming a part of the Santos disintegration and moving on to Juventus of Sao Paulo. One year more and then, in 1970, he retired and went home to Rosario.

Clearly now his calling card, that of a man who had played beside Pele, couldn't be ignored and Menotti soon found himself assistant trainer with his old club, Rosario Central. True to form, however, he didn't hang about. First came a posting as first-team coach to local rivals Newell's Old Boys, then a move to Huracan.

And this is where Menotti's reputation began to take off. Huracan had a fine young side. Jorge Carrascosa was an inspiring defender, Miguel Angel Brindisi and Carlos Babington skilled attacking midfielders, and Rene Houseman and Roque Avallay a handful for any defence.

Coaching, guiding and advising, Menotti turned them into first division champions in 1973. Their brand of entertaining, attacking football brought a breath of fresh air to the Argentine game and, as much as any personal qualities, earned for Menotti his appointment the following year as national team manager.

Even the tottering Peronist government realised that a new emphasis on attractive football was vital in the country's campaign to 'sell' itself to the world in the 1978 World Cup finals.

But Menotti didn't find it easy, coming under fire as early as his first game, a 1-1 draw with Spain in the autumn of 1974 in Buenos Aires. For several years he remained daggers drawn with Juan Carlos Lorenzo, the controversial coach of Boca Juniors, then the country's leading club team.

Lorenzo was one of the old school. His team's brand of 'fight-ball' was anathema to Menotti, who ignored all Boca's players as he set about building his World Cup team, preferring the unpredictable, but far more skilful, stars from Boca's great rivals, River Plate.

It paid off, of course. And Menotti is still in his job, while Lorenzo has had three or four since leaving Boca. In all, Menotti's Argentina have played around 100 games including full internationals and tests against club sides, losing less than a dozen. Menotti has also tried more than 100 players in that time, particularly in the run-up to the 1978 finals, when the clubs reluctantly allowed themselves to be ordered around in the national interest.

When Menotti summoned his squad, everyone came running — no questions asked. Now he isn't finding the same eager response. Diego Maradona's withdrawal from the squad training sessions at the end of last year was an example of the way even Menotti's authority is now being challenged.

There are those high in the corridors of power who resent his success, and resent his wide-ranging control of the team. It's a reasonable bet that, even if Menotti had not pre-empted the situation by announcing his impending departure, he would have been replaced anyway.

Not that Menotti will have any problem finding a new job. After the 1978 World Cup offers poured in at the rate of one every 48 hours. Neighbours Uruguay wanted him, so did Spain, so did club sides throughout North and South America and Europe.

In one sense, Menotti's mission to cure the sickness in Argentine football has failed. There has been no sign of progress in the urgent matter of sorting out the financial and administrative turmoil.

But Menotti's role, anyway, was to sort out the sickness on the pitch rather than off it.

He says: "The problem with Argentine football was that for many years it existed in total confusion. After a lot of defeats and setbacks people became more concerned trying to copy other styles than get back to our own.

"A German team can't play like a Spanish team, or vice versa. Every nation's football has different characteristics. If I have achieved anything, it is in giving Argentine football faith in itself, in our own style of play.

"Obviously I have tried to incorporate ideas from European football — but only those things which do not conflict with the basic Argentine style.

"You can't ask players to do something they're not born to. You couldn't ask Sinatra to sing a tango better than Gardel, any more than you would have asked Gardel to sing Strangers in the Night better than Sinatra.

"Every man to his own . . . in football too."

Looking beyond Spain and the World Cup . . .

by Leslie Vernon

IT SEEMS only weeks ago that Marid Tardelli scored a winning goal against England for Italy, and later, West Germany beat Belgium 2-1 in the Final. But imagination plays tricks with one's memory, and these events in the last European Championship took place in the summer of 1980 in Italy.

Now, we are ready for the next competition, and the UEFA in their wisdom have decided that despite the claims of England, West Germany and Greece, the Finals will be staged in France. They propose to play off the matches in seven towns during the month of June 1984, and they are prepared to spend a great deal of money in order to bring facilities up-to-date.

The only change in the format of the Finals is the introduction of K.O. semi-finals and the abolition of the meaningless play-off match for third place. Consequently, the eight qualifiers will be drawn into two groups of four teams, they will play a round-robin, and then the group winners will play against the other group's runners-up in the semis.

France are automatic finalists as hosts, and the draw was made in Paris on January 8 for the seven groups — only the winners qualify for the deciding tournament!

It is an interesting draw with several well-balanced groups, and it is by no means certain that the seven seeded teams (Belgium, Poland, England, Yugoslavia, Italy, W. Germany and Spain) will all reach the Finals. The qualifying matches will be played after the World Cup this year and in 1983, and now one can only hazard an educated guess concerning the strength of the various countries.

It is usual for national team managers (those lucky ones who keep their jobs!) to rebuild their teams after the World Cup Finals, in preparation for the next global confrontation. Nevertheless, past form is a good guide, and we have time to revise our opinion in the light of subsequent events.

Let's see the various groups with particular interest in the fate of the Home Countries:

GROUP 1 — *Belgium, E. Germany, Scotland, Switzerland.* This is possibly the strongest group, in any case, it is extremely well-balanced, with not one really poor team amongst them. Belgium have had a few very good results lately, they finished runners-up in the last European Championship, and they won their section of the World Cup qualifying competition. But I do not rate them quite as highly as the seeding indicates, because they rely too much on a teak-hard defence.

The midfield-line without the 37-years old Van Moer, is only mediocre, and up-front, Ceulemans has no adequate support. I am really curious to see how Van Der Elst performs for West Ham, he was a great player at Anderlecht, but did very little while with Cosmos in New York.

East Germany, under new management, will be anxious to compensate for their failure to overcome Poland in the World Cup, and they have the single-mindedness to mount a formidable challenge in this competition.

Scotland, as we know, have the talent to do extremely well, but they are also their own worst enemies at times, with a tendency to commit football-suicide. I shall watch their World Cup performances with great interest, because the influence of Jock Stein might be extremely important for them. They could win this group if the team play up to the potential of such players as Hansen, Souness and Dalglish.

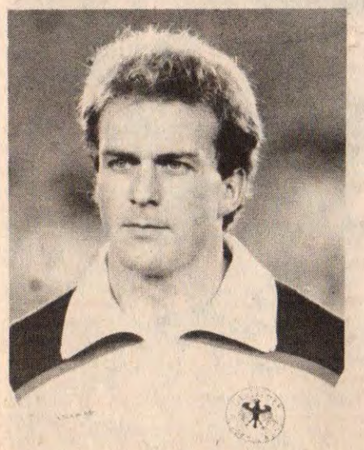
Switzerland, under Wolfisberg, have had a purple spell, their victories against England and Rumania in Bucharest were no mean feats. But the national team manager is a reluctant hero, he would rather concentrate on being the part-time boss of Lausanne and a part-time architect. The Swiss won't finish on top of this strong group, but they are able to snatch vital points off more fancied opponents, and as they did in the World Cup, they might play a leading part in deciding who qualify for the Finals.

GROUP 2 — *Poland, Russia, Portugal, Finland.* The present political upheaval might have an effect on football in Poland. Otherwise, their double over East Germany speaks well for them, although such veterans as Lato and Szamach must be near the end of their international careers. They must build a new team around Boniek, and I feel that they will be hard-pressed to overcome the formidable challenge of the Soviet Union.

There, Blokchin, Shengelia and Chivadze played extremely well in the World Cup matches, and perhaps they have their strongest team since they finished runners-up in this competition in 1972. Portugal opened well in the World Cup, but then they faded badly, and as they are poor travellers, I don't expect to see them collecting one single point in Eastern Europe against Poland or the USSR.

Finland played well at Wembley a few years ago, but they are not in the same class as the other three, and they can only hope to gather a few points in Helsinki.

GROUP 3 — *England, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Luxembourg.* England won only two games (out of nine!) in 1981 — both against Hungary! But they are capable of playing better than this sorry balance sheet suggests, and must be considered strong favourites in this mediocre group — whoever the manager is!



Karl Heinz Rummenigge, European Footballer of the Year.

Katzirz is the latest Hungarian player to seek a career abroad, and I fear that there will be an exodus after the World Cup. Nyilasi has already indicated that he wants to go to Spain, and the Hungarian F.A. in their present generous mood will grant exit visas to all and sundry. To rely on foreign legionnaires, especially in their early thirites, is a dangerous practice, and I don't think that the Hungarians will have an effective team for the European Championship.

Denmark are in the same category. They had some very good results in 1981 (3-1 v Italy, etc.) but they function well only when their exported players are all available. Greece played well in the last European Championship, when they were surprise qualifiers from a group which included the Soviet Union and Hungary. This time they have a new manager, a poor World Cup campaign to look back on, some good individuals but no team yet.

Luxembourg are there to make the numbers up, they will be reluctant hosts to England, remembering the hooligan supporters who darkened their doorsteps the last time, when the two countries met in the Principality.

GROUP 4 — *Yugoslavia, Wales, Bulgaria, Norway.* A fairly well-balanced group, with the Yugoslavs slightly ahead of the other countries. Miljanic might use home-based players only, and they have a tendency to substitute for the exiles effectively. Wales have a good chance of qualifying, they play well in competitive matches, and they haven't got an inferiority complex against Eastern European opposition.

For a time, Bulgaria had a habit of reaching World Cup Finals, but during the last few years, they have been very disappointing. Yet, I have a feeling that they will have a vital say in this group, they might even come out on top. Noway surprised England in the World Cup, they are capable of playing extremely well in Oslo. Their hard-working defence is difficult to break down, in Lund they have an above-average midfielder, and their forwards know where the goal is.

GROUP 5 — *Italy, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Sweden, Cyprus* — An extremely interesting group, which does not guarantee a free passage for Italy. This seeded country is going through a bad patch right now, although they must improve once Bettega, Antognoni and Rossi become available. The World Cup is Bearzot's last chance. If Italy

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HOWE TO GET THE BEST OUT OF ENGLAND'S PL

ENGLAND'S trip to Spain next June need not be as brief as some people think it will be. True, there is little or no hope of winning the World Cup, in which England is astoundingly lucky to be taking part at all. True, Ron Greenwood, the team manager, decent and amiable man, has been revealed as the most broken of reeds, a kind of Michael Foot of English football.

True, the victory over Hungary was a disgracefully clumsy, unimaginative and tedious affair, unworthy to take any team into the World Cup finals.

Yet hope remains. There are still some good players around, provided Greenwood at long last has the wit to choose them, and if Don Howe of Arsenal becomes the Grey Eminence of the team — which seemed likely to happen at the Hungary game — there are hopes that some decisive leadership could come at last.

Howe, and his Arsenal, have many critics. There were criticisms to be heard from senior players after the Hungary game, whispers that Howe had imposed too defensive a pattern on his team, that too great an emphasis had been placed on tackling back, chasing and covering. Well, since the England team that night seemed quite incapable of constructing a decent attacking move until Tony Morley came on for his first cap, perhaps Don Howe was not entirely wrong.

Howe knows people criticise him as a negative coach, and he thinks it unfair. The reputation has clung to him for a decade since, under the umbrella of Bertie Mee, he guided Arsenal to the double of 1971, ten years exactly after their neighbours, the Spurs, had accomplished it.

Paul Mariner, not the answer to England's problems.

Howe gives a long list of creative players with whom he has worked, players such as Brady, Stapleton, Currie, Hudson, and asks any of his critics to talk to them and see if THEY say his methods are negative. What he does insist is that all the teams, Liverpool among them, who have done well in European football have been very well organised and here again, you can scarcely gainsay him. Those who feel that Howe, an excellent England right-back in the World Cup finals of 1958 in Sweden, is wedded wholly to defence would do well to ponder the question of Stapleton.

When Frank Stapleton came to London from Dublin as a raw 15-year-old, he had little but his heading to recommend him. Howe worked with him endlessly, enormously improving his control and awareness on the ground, even improving his heading. Stapleton admits as much. The result, thanks also to Stapleton's admirable persistence: is the complete centre-forward you see today, the one for whom Arsenal wanted two million but in fact did quite well all things considered to get from Manchester United £900,000.

Talking of centre-forwards, I am very much one of those who believe that Cyrille Regis should be given his chance for England. What other centre-forward is in sight? Plagued by what appears, alas, to be pelvic trouble, Paul Mariner has had a most unhappy season, failed miserably in Norway, and in any case has never looked an England centre-forward to me.

Peter Withe has also had a chance or two; a powerful, not unintelligent player, splendidly effective at club level, but scarcely the stuff of which international centre-forwards are made. Regis, at 23, had a bad game for the England Under 21s in Denmark a few years ago, a game which is said to linger in Ron Greenwood's memory, but it would be absurd to hold that against him now; least of all when England are in such desperate need of a centre-forward. Besides, those Under 21 matches are a blight, and should be done away with. Seldom are they anything but supremely boring, and their potential negative effect is immensely larger than what they can positively do.

Take the depressing example of little Gordon Cowans, who was working so well in the Aston Villa midfield till he played in Romania last season in an Under 21 team which was thrashed by the Romanian Under 21s. A desolated Cowans, though he got his Championship medal, wasn't the same player for the rest of last season.

Regis has scored some wonderfully exciting goals this season. Ronnie Allen, West Bromwich's manager, who brought the 19-

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The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

year-old Regis to Albion straight from Hayes and a building site, where he worked as an electrician, believes it has much to do with Albion's new style of play.

Under Ron Atkinson, who left for Manchester United and took Moses and Robson with him, Albion used wingers. Allen says that Regis became disheartened waiting for Peter Barnes to cross the ball after he had beaten several men and gone to the line.

Now, without wingers, Albion he thinks are giving Regis a much better service and exploiting his tremendous capability to surge and accelerate. They are also, he says, working hard on his play on the ground. That his claim to have improved Regis' lay-offs is solid was shown when I watched him recently at Crystal Palace. Not only did he score twice but one lay-off made with the outside of the right foot was elegantly done.

Allen insists that when he returned to take over Albion, Regis "grew several inches" and has been a transformed player, but if you talk to Regis, as I have, he will tell you that he was perfectly happy under Atkinson, who let him get on with what he wanted to do. He is also thoughtfully spoken about Allen's claim that he needs more aggression in his play. You can, he thinks, go "over the top" on that, though perhaps he's a little more determined to make the ball his. Watching him it's very hard to see how he could possibly be much more determined.

Of the goals I have seen him score this season, none was better than the one with which he torpedoed Swansea City at The Hawthorns, early in the season. Gary Owen, I believe it was, who played the ball up to him. Regis headed it into the air, and there seemed nothing on, as they say. Instead he set off at a furious pace, left Irwin, his marker, in the rear, bore down on goal, and beat Dai Davies with a left-footed shot squeezed between him and the right-hand post.

At Palace, the late goal he scored when, receiving from a free-kick, he effortlessly held off the Palace defence with his back to goal, finally to spin and shoot home, was formidable, too.

Of course we have no idea whether he could do such things in the England shirt, though I suspect that he could. Of course he would need, as Allen says, the right support around him; which might well mean no Keegan, trying as he always ill-advisedly does to run the game when he is essentially supporting cast.

Keegan had a splendid match when I saw him not long ago against Manchester United, when his overhead volley into the net was one of the most spectacular goals disallowed this season. But it remains very doubtful that he has much left to offer England.

Tony Morley has shown us emphatically that he *can* succeed at international level. Steve Coppell is an important figure in the England team, not least when he has to do so much of Phil Neal's defending for him, but when he went off against Hungary, Morley showed an old-fashioned winger's exuberance, a directness, pace and boldness, that made one believe he could do great things on the international field. After all, it was only a few weeks previously that he had scored after an amazing 80-yard run against Dynamo Berlin, in the lee of the Berlin Wall.

Cyrille Regis in action for WBA against Crystal Palace.

Morley is not perhaps the most sophisticated of players, and there are times — Villa's game at frosty Everton was one of them — when he can be squeezed out of the play. But he does at last seem to have got over his inability to flourish away from home, and it is certainly worth having another look at him.

Tantalising

It would be worth, too, having another look at the eternally tantalising and frustrating Glenn Hoddle. Hoddle began beautifully against Bulgaria, whereat Greenwood, in a moment of sublime crassness, announced that disappointment was part of football, and dropped him. What exquisite psychological tact!

In Norway this season, he had a very poor game, but all those who watch him regularly know that he is one of the most gifted, original, technically accomplished, intelligent players whom we have. What he lacks, alas, is temperament, and Greenwood showed how ill-fitted he is to supply the lack when, at his pre-Hungary game Press conference, he said that if a player isn't motivated when he reaches this level, then there must be something wrong with him.

Probably there is; and one of the reasons we appoint and pay international team managers — if there are any good motives at all — is to try and put things right. Hoddle is a product of our Welfare State which breeds dependency, for all its undoubted virtues, as a rubbish heap breeds flies.

Trevor Francis, if anywhere near fit, seems to me an essential choice for the team. He, too, is gifted far beyond the average English professional, with his fine acceleration (though it did seem blunted by injury, in Oslo), his superb anticipation, his ability to strike and score when no goal seems feasible. It remains to be seen whether he, too, can fit in with Keegan, but surely, when there is such a dearth of ability in English football, he cannot be ignored: by anybody sensible.

There is, as we know a fearful lack of centre-halves, centre-backs, call them what you will, and I simply cannot see Alvin Martin of West Ham supplying the need. He was far out of his depth when he played against Brazil and the Hungarian match, when the visitors scarcely bothered to lift a leg except to kick people, was scarcely a valid test. Quick, intelligent players will leave the slow and heavy Martin standing, though he may be serviceable enough for the purpose of our First Division.

Phil Thompson, who had a splendid game in Budapest where, with Trevor Brooking, he was the true architect of victory, may not be quite what he was, but he will do. To play beside him, would it be sheer heresy to suggest a look at a Third Division player in young Tony Gale, of Fulham?

Weather causes fixture chaos for Greenwood

by Paul Parish

THE British, at least, will talk about the weather. And whether it is the anticipated sunshine of Spain in midsummer or the arctic conditions of Northern Europe in midwinter there has been plenty of material for conversation in these opening weeks of the year.

Yet the two — sunshine and snow — are very much interrelated. As the blizzards raged in December and January leaving behind them a trail of havoc on the football front there was every reason to fear that they would have repercussions when the British sides head for Spain and the World Cup Finals in June.

By mid-January, with that peculiarly British institution the Pools Panel sitting for the fifth consecutive week, there was the almost certain knowledge that English clubs would have to play twice a week from now until the end of the season to clear the backlog of fixtures.

That had to be had news for the national managers Ron Greenwood (England), Jock Stein (Scotland) and Billy Bingham (Northern Ireland). Hopes that the national sides might organise a few get-togethers before Spain were buried beneath the drifting snow.

As it is the British sides will be travelling to Spain almost immediately the domestic programme ends. Because of the rescheduling of the fixture programme last year the Football League is not due to be completed until May 15 — four weekends before the Spanish jamboree swings into action.

That doesn't take into account further postponements, the FA Cup Final and the possibilities of British representation in at least one of the European club competitions.

The immediate problem facing Greenwood and Bingham, for example, is the meeting of England and Northern Ireland in the Home International Championship in February. It will be an immediate test of the *entente* verbally agreed by FA and League supremos Bert Millichip and Jack Dunnett, who have both stressed the importance of international success in Spain.

Greenwood, for one, had certainly been hoping for more than just the chance to meet his players at times of internationals. After World Cup qualifications had been ensured he spoke of three or four weeks when he might be able to call his players together.

Now he will be lucky if he sees them for more than 48 hours before international matches — and will hope that injury will not decimate his squad in the final scurry to complete the domestic programme.

Of course, it all sounds as if England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are starting to make their excuses for what might happen in Spain. Hopefully that won't be necessary.

Apart from the possible international repercussions of the mid-season ice-age there was also the worrying problems facing a number of clubs in the lower divisions of the Football League.

Pessimists believe that there could be as many as 20 clubs in the Football League in danger of extinction — and that bad weather is hastening their end.

The seriousness of the position was first highlighted when Plymouth Argyle's future was only assured after chairman Robert Daniel managed to negotiate the transfer of shares after five directors resigned from the board. Plymouth are losing £5,000 per week — and they are not an isolated case.

Mr Daniel was quoted as saying: "Survival is the name of the game. The fact that Liverpool have to fly to Japan to earn their wages for the week is a telling comment on the state of the game."

England manager Ron Greenwood.

He forecasts that there could be as many as 500 professional footballers out of work at the end of the season as clubs are forced to cut back.

League President Jack Dunnett commented: "When I took office this season I said the game was in a crisis. If your income is shrinking and your expenses are rising then you are bound to be heading for trouble."

So when the snows came the condition of many clubs became critical. Without income from attendances — no matter how small — they were being financially bled. The wages, after all, still had to be paid at the end of the week.

Oxford United, one of the league's younger clubs, were the next to face closure until Press magnate Robert Maxwell threw them a lifeline and secured their immediate future.

The distress signals were being fired all over the country. Charlton, without a nome match for six weeks, announced their problems.

Norwich chairman Sir Arthur South commented: "Many clubs are heavily in debt at the bank. The problems will multiply with no revenue from attendances because of postponements and more and more clubs will find themselves in serious trouble. Only our lottery is keeping us going."

Protection

Football had a financial crisis before the snows came, but there is no doubting that the difficulties have been increased now, particularly with the loss of the always fruitful Christmas programme.

The show went on, in most cases, where clubs had installed pitch protection methods — though Arsenal proved that underground heating was not necessarily infallible. Even Queens Park Rangers continually maligned synthetic surface earned praise because it was always ready for action — with the aid, it should be said, of a squad from nearby Wormwood Scrubs Prison who cleared the snow.

And as a result the league tables were thrown out of gear. Both Manchester clubs and Swansea had turns at the top of the First Division but all the time Bobby Robson's Ipswich lurked, with games in hand, ready to pounce when the thaw came.

By the middle of January, Ipswich still has 25 league matches to play . . . and Spain seemed a million miles away.

Ian Moores (9) turns away in triumph after beating Derby County goalkeeper Roger Jones at Brisbane Road.

Cross - Section

This month — SPAIN

THE COUNTDOWN to the World Cup finals has begun in all seriousness now that the draw has been made — so all eyes are, increasingly, being focused on Spain.

Football made its entry in the latter half of last century through the ports — such as Bilbao in the north, and Barcelona. Also thanks to the mining engineers of the Rio Tinto; also thanks to students returning home; and thanks to the English businessmen and teachers.

One such was Arthur Johnson. He was the first-ever team manager of the Madrid FC (now Real Madrid) and his devotion to football was such that when he got married he arranged the ceremony for the morning so he could turn out for Madrid in the afternoon!

Ever since, Spain has been a Mecca for foreign players. A number have been successful and inspired lasting achievements. One has to think only of Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas at Real Madrid, of Ladislao Kubala and Sandor Kocsis at Barcelona, of Vava at Atletico Madrid; and more recently of Johan Cruyff, Günter Netzer, Mario Kempes and Johan Neeskens.

The foreigners are still there and still creating controversy. None more so than Bernd Schuster, the 22-year-old West German revelation from the 1980 European championship.

Schuster has been the outstanding player in the league this season, inspiring Udo Lattek's rebuilt "Barsa electrico" until just before Christmas . . . then an awkward fall after a tackle by Bilbao's Goicoechea left Schuster with ripped knee ligaments.

How long will he be out is a recurring question facing Barsa officials. Three months they say one day, five months another. Either way his season is over, and so — apparently — is the controversy over his refusal to play for West Germany alongside Rummenigge and Breitner.

Hermann Neuberger, all-powerful head of the German federation had set up a meeting with Schuster at the time of the World Cup draw. But after Schuster's injury the talks fell by the wayside. For one thing Schuster was back in Germany recuperating after being operated on in Cologne; for another the chances of his being match fit for the finals appear virtually non-existent.

To cover his loss Barcelona have been scouting the world, sounding out Eintracht Frankfurt over a loan deal for Bruno Pezzey, sounding out Corinthians of Sao Paulo for the loan of Socrates, and then talking more seriously to Atletico Mineiro, also of Brazil, about a £400,000 three-month loan of Toninho Cerezo.

Barsa certainly need some support for their sagging midfield, even if they began their spell without Schuster with a commendable 3-1 home win over Real Madrid. Two goals fell to Quini — finally recalled, against Belgium, to Spain's international attack — and all three were created by the little Dane, Allan Simonsen.

He's had a tough time of it. Overshadowed by Schuster in the star ratings, Simonsen was regularly flying to and from Denmark for much of the autumn because of family illness and death.

But the ability is still there and he was wildly applauded by the 115,000 who saw Barsa's win over Madrid in the first game Barsa officially opened their stadium extension.

The Red Cross had criticised the design after the previous home game — a 2-0 win over Osasuna in which two people died of heart failure. Medical officials said there were not enough clearly defined pathways and passages. But with 100 Red Cross staff on duty for Madrid's visit there were no more complaints.

Certainly not from Barcelona. All those who wanted a ticket to see the Madrid game had to buy a ticket for the next home match as well. That way, Barcelona raked in around £800,000!

With 96,000 members they are now perhaps the largest football *club* in the world. But still they have difficulty translating their financial power into clear advantage on the pitch. Even now they are having tp put up with a three-way tie at the top of the first division, along with Madrid and champions Real Sociedad.

Madrid have their own problems. Coach Vujadin Boskov may return to Yugoslavia and Hajduk Split next season; Uli Stielike is the subject of an offer from Bayern Munich; and few people believe much more will ever be seen of Laurie Cunningham, who has missed 420 days through injury since signing for Madrid.

The way Madrid players struggle after operations it's no wonder star forward Juanito has delayed surgery to ease his pelvic strain!

An ex-Madrid man in the wars is Miguel Munoz. The man who captained Madrid to their first two Champions' Cup victories then managed them to their fifth and sixth has just been sacked by Sevilla. Munoz went because the board thought him too soft on the undisciplined Brazilian forward Pintinho, who has established a mighty reputation as a playboy-around-town.

Ironically, five days after Munoz's dismissal, Pintinho suddenly bounded into form with four goals in the 5-1 away win over Zaragoza!

Another import to hit the goal standard has been Mexico's Hugo Sanchez. He made up for the upsets of the World Cup with a spell of five goals in the three league and cup games to lift — briefly — the cloud hanging over Atletico.

They're in a sorry state. President Alfonso Cabeza is at present at liberty on £1,300 bail in a criminal defamation law case brought against him by 26 of Spain's 31 first division referees. Atletico themselves are almost £6 million in debt and were beaten at home 3-2 by neighbours Real.

Real Madrid 4 (Juanito 1, 53, Garcia Hernandez 29, Gallego 65)
Santander 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Jimenez.
Madrid: Miguel Angel — Cortes, Gallego, San Jose, Camacho — Garcia Hernandez, Del Bosque, Stielike (Angel 77) — Juanito, Ito (Isidro 80), Pineda.
Santander: Pereira — Castanos, Preciado (Alarcon 34), Sanudo, Mantilla — Angulo, Piru, Bernal (Chiri 77) — Villita, Pedraza, Veron.

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Urquiaga 66)
Real Sociedad 1 (Cortabarria 49 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Franco Martinez.
Bilbao: Zubizarreta — Urquiaga, Liceranzu, Goicoechea, Nunez — Rojo, De Andres, Sola (Tirapu 71) — Dani, Sarabia, Argote (Noriega 77).
Real Sociedad: Arconada — Murillo, Gorriz, Cortabarria, Olaizola (Orbegozo 46) — Diego, Alonzo (Larranaga 67), Zamora — Uralde, Satrustegui, Lopez Ufarte.

Betis Seville 2 (Diarte 8, Cardenosa 81 pen)
Barcelona 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Lamo Castillo.
Betis: Esnaola — Benitez, Biosca (Carmelo 84), Peruena, Gordillo — Lopez, Ortega, Cardenosa — Parra, Diarte (Melchor 85), Rincon.
Barcelona: Artola — Sanchez, Alesanco, Olmo, Manolo — Estella, Esteban (Martinez 73), Victor — Moran (Ramirez 57), Quini, Simonsen.

Zaragoza 2 (Amarilla 41, Alonso 72 pen)
Valladolid 1 (Joaquin 1)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 32,500. **Ref:** Damin Rendon.
Zaragoza: Irazusta — Casuco, Camus, Omaderra, Morgado — Guerri, Amorrortu, Senor, P. Alonso (Zunzunegui 89) — Amarilla (Perez Aguerri 72), Valdano.
Valladolid: Montes — Pepin, Richard, Santos (Rusky 76), Sanchez Valles — Gail, Lucas, More — Jorge, Ali (Minguela 59), Joaquin.

Espanol 2 (Murua 15, Vilches 86)
Sevilla 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,600. **Ref:** Urizar Azpitarte.
Espanol: Custers — Job, Canito, Escalza, Padilla — Molinos, Zuniga, Vilches — Murua (Carreno 75), Jimenez (Fortes 52), Maranon.
Sevilla: Buyo — Nimo, Alvarez, Rivas, San Jose — Juan Carlos, Pintinho (Choya 74), Francisco — Ruda, Moises, Magdelano (Murua 52).

Cadiz 5 (Amarillo 5, Mane I 27 pen, 55, Escobar 51, Mejias 80)
Castellon 1 (Blanco 32)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Sanchez Molina.
Cadiz: Catalan — Juan Jose, Dos Santos, Amarillo (Chano) — India — Linares, Escobar, Choquet (Manolito) — Mane I, Mejias, Dieguito.
Castellon: Castel — Verdu, Blanco (Tico), Julio, Navarro — Conde, Lotina (Victor), Planelles — Julio Prieto, Vinas, Beltran.

Las Palmas 1 (Pepe Juan 86)
Gijon 1 (Ferrero 46)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Miguel Perez.
Las Palmas: Perez — Calvo, Roque, Marrero, Maye, Pepe Juan, Felic, Noly, Julio, Luizinho, Juani.
Gijon: Claudio — Redondo, Maceda, Jimenez, Pereda, Mesa, Joaquin, Torcornal, Abel, Pero, Ferrero.

Valencia 2 (Solsona 60 pen, Roberto 78)
Hercules 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Merino.
Valencia: Sempere — Carrete, Arias, Castellanos, Botubot — Solsona, Arnesen (Galvez), Cesar — Saura, Welzl (Moreno), Roberto.
Hercules: Sala — Serrat, Ernesto, Manuz, Aracil — Muller (Parra 63), Santi, Vidal — Herbera, Abad, Churruca (Reces 76).

Osasuna 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Hugo Sanchez 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sanchez Arminio.
Osasuna: Basauri — Mina, Lecumberri, Lumbreras (Macua), Esparza — Dioni, Bayona, Teixido — Echevarria, Iriguibel (Azcona), Martin.
Atletico: Aguinaga — Juanjo, Arteche, Balbino, Clemente — Ruiz, Dirceu, Qyique, Julio Alberto — Marcos (Leal), Hugo Sanchez (Cabrera).

Leading scorers: Quini (Barcelona) 15. Armarilla (Zaragoza) 9. Schuster (Barcelona), Juani (Las Palmas), Diarte (Betis), Lopez Ufarte (Real Sociedad), Pintinho (Sevilla) 8.

World Soccer Diary compiled by Keir Radnedge World Soccer Diary compiled by Keir Radnedge

Polls, polls and still more polls everywhere

IT'S ELECTION time, again, throughout world football. From country to country, continent to continent, the holiday season has been used to provide a breathing space in which many of world's Footballers of the Year have been chosen.

So let's salute them and, especially, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge for retaining his European crown, Diego Maradona for retaining his Americas' crown, and Zico for landing the South American title.

As we suggested here last month, Rummenigge's victory was hardly surprising. Nor that he was pursued by Bayern Munich team-mate Paul Breitner. With West Germany so superior at national team level, and Bayern having a useful enough year, there were few other obvious candidates.

All this means it's now seven years since the European trophy left West Germany. Franz Beckenbauer, Allan Simonsen (then Borussia Mg), Kevin Keegan twice (then Hamburg) and now Rummenigge twice have put the *Bundesliga* at the top of the international queue since Oleg Blokhin, Kiev's 1975 winner, relinquished his hold on the trophy awarded annually by the Paris weekly, *France Football.*

Rummenigge thus joins Alfredo Di Stefano, Johan Cruyff, Beckenbauer and Keegan among the elite whou have won more than once. But Cruyff remains alone as the only player to have won the trophy on three occasions.

Among the individual votes cast — one journalist in each of 26 European countries named five players in order of preference — the only one to come close to the overall top five was Leon Fumelli of the Turkish paper, Milliyet. He voted for: Rummenigge, Bernd Schuster, Breitner, Michel Platini and Blokhin. The only slip was that in the overall list Breitner finished in front of his fellow German, Schuster.

Sadly ironic that: Schuster finishing in the top three behind the two players he blames as his reason for pulling out of the West German World Cup squad.

Not that this matters either way, since Schuster's knee ligament injury just before Christmas. It's highly unlikely now that he will be fit in time for the World Cup anyway, whether he would have relented on his petulance or not.

In international terms it was a victory for West Germany. They had five players nominated — Rummenigge, Breitner, Schuster, Horst Hrubesch and Uli Stielike — while the club with most players were Dynamo Tbilisi, through Ramas Shengalia, David Kipiani and Alexander Chivadze.

1981 voting: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Bayern, WG) 106 pts. 2, Paul Breitner (Bayern, WG) 64. 3, Bernd Schuster (Barcelona, WG) 39. 4, Michel Platini (Saint-Etienne, Fr) 36. 5, Oleg Blokhin (Kiev, r) 14. 6, Dino Zoff (Juventus, It) 13. 7, Ramas Shengelia (Tbilisi, R) 10. 8, Alexander Chivadze (Tbilisi, R) 9. 9, Liam Brady (Juventus, RI) and John Wark (Ipswich, Scot) 7 each. 11, Zbigniew Boniek (Widzew, Pol), Maxim Bossis (Nantes, Fr), David Kipiani (Tbilisi, R), Bruno Pezzey (Eintracht Frankfurt, Aus) and Andras Totoscik (Ujpest, Hun) all 6 each. 16, Horst Hrubesch (Hamburg, WG), Rudi Krol (Napoli, Hol), Vladimir Petrovic (Red Star, Yug) all 5 each. 19, Trevor Brooking (West Ham, Eng) and Zlatko Vujovic (Hajduk, Yug) both 4 each. 21, Luis Arconada (Real Sociedad, Sp), Giancarlo Antognoni (Fiorentina, It), Jan Ceulemans (Brugge, Bel), Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool, Scot), Bryan Robson (Man. Utd, Eng), Frank Stapleton (Man. Utd, RI), and Wilfred Van Moer (Beveren, Bel) all 3 each. 28, Grzegorz Lato (Lokeren, Pol), Tibor Nyilasi (Ferencvaros, Hun), Jan Smolarek (Widzew, Pol), and Frans Thijssen (Ipswich, Hol) all 2 each. 32, Oliveira (Sporting Lisbon), Uli Stielike (Real Madrid, WG), and Jesus Zamora (Real Sociedad, Sp) all 1 each.

Past winners: 1956 Stanley Matthews (Eng). 1957 Alfredo Di Stefano (Sp). 1958 Raymond Kopa (Fr). 1959 Di Stefano. 1960 Luis Suarez (Sp). 1961 Omar Sivori (It). 1962 Josef Maspoust (Cz). 1963 Lev Yashin (R). 1964 Denis Law (Scot). 1965 Eusebio (Port). 1966 Bobby Charlton (Eng). 1967 Florian Albert (Hun). 1968 George Best (N.I.). 1969 Gianni Rivera (It). 1970 Gerd Müller (WG). 1971 Johan Cruyff (Hol). 1972 Franz Beckenbauer (WG). 1973 Cruyff. 1974 Cruyff. 1975 Oleg Blokhin (R). 1976 Beckenhauer. 1977 Allan Simonsen (Den). 1978 Kevin Keegan (Eng). 1979 Keegan. 1980 Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (WG).

THE Argentine weekly *El Grafico,* went even further afield than France Football in making their choice as Americas Footballer of the Year. They asked around 150 jounalists and radio and television commentators throughout South, Central and North America in their attempt to reflect popular feeling as accurately as possible.

Diego Maradona, despite the recent traumas, finished on top of the pile for the second year in succession, with 572 votes. Runner-up was the Brazilian, Zico, with 524. But I've a feeling that had El Grafico delayed the vote or, conversely, had the World Club Cup taken place a little earlier, then Zico's marvellous match-winning performance for Flamengo would have carried him past the 21-year-old Argentine.

1981 voting: 1, Diego Maradona (Boca, Arg), 572 votes. 2, Zico (Flamengo, Brz) 524. 3, Julio Cesar Uribe (Sporting Cristal, Peru), 131. 4, Junior (Flamengo, Brz) 122. 5, Patricio Yanez (San Luis, Ch) 93. 6, Daniel Passerella (River Plate, Arg) 64. 7, Ubaldo Fillol (River Plate, Arg) 58. 8, Socrates (Corinthians. Brz) 55. 9, Toninho Cerezo (Atletico Mineiro, Brz) 49. 10, Ruben Paz (Penarol, Uru) 37. 11, Cesar Cueto (Nacional Medellin, Peur) 32. 12, Carlos Caszely (Colo-Colo, Ch) and Jose Velasquez (Independiente Medellin, Peru) 29. 14, Willington Ortiz (Dep. Cali, Col) and Waldemar Victorino (Dep. Cali, Uru) 24. 16, Jeronimo Barbadillo (Tigres Monterrey, Per) 15. 17, Hugo Sanchez (At. Madrid, Mex), Elias Fegueroa (Ft Lauderdale, Ch) both 14. 19, Rodolfo Rodriguez (Nacional, Uru) 11. 10, Paulo Isidoro (Gremio, Brz) 10. 21, Mario Kempes (River Plate, Arg) 9. 22, Americo Gallego (River Plate, Arg), Fernando Morena (Penarol, Uru) both 8. 24, Teofilo Cubillas (Ft Lauderdale, Per), Roberto Dinamite (Vasco, Brz) and Julio Cesar Romero (Cosmos, Par) all 7. 27, Giorgio Chinaglia (Cosmos, It/US) 6. 28, Hector Chumpitaz (Sp. Cristal, Per), Mario Sergio (San Paulo, Brz) and Hernan Herrera (Nacional Medellin, Col) 5. 31, Norberto Alonso (River, Arg), Hugo De Leon (Gremio, Uru), Roberto Iarusci (Cosmos, Canada), Victor Merello (Cobreloa, Ch), Jose Moreira (Nacional, Uru) all 4 each. 36, Miguel Angel Brindisi (Boca, Arg), Eduardo Dela Pena (Nacional, Uru), Ramon Diaz (River, Arg), Hector Puebla (Cobreloa, Ch), Juan Rocchia (FC Oeste, Arg), Alberto Tarantini (River, Arg) all 3 each. 42, Leonardo Cuellar (At. Campesino, Mex), Eder (At. Mineiro, Brz), German Leguia (Universitario, Per), Eugenio Morel (Arg. Juniors, Par), and Mario Osben (Colo-Colo, Ch) all 2 each. 47, Jose Benitez (Internacional PA, Par), Carlos Bianchi (Velez, Arg), Ricardo Bochini (Indep., Arg), Fernando Bulnes (Universidad Teg., Hond), Cabinho (Atlante, Brz), Polo Carrera (America Quito, Ecuador), Jose Figueroa (Vida, Hond), Luis Galarza (Strongest, Bol), Lizardo Garrido (Colo-Colo, Ch), Jorge Gonzalez (FAS San Salvador, Els), Carlos Saguier (Cruz Azul, Par), Ariel Krasouski (Boca, Uru), Juan Jose Lopez (River, Arg), Luizinho (At. Mineiro, Brz), Oscar (Sao Paulo, Brz), Venancio Ramos (Penarol, Uru), Gaston Taborga (Wilsterman, Bol), Jose Villafuerte (Nacional Quite, Ec) all 1 vote each.

FINALLY, the poll in which Zico did collect a crown, the annual South American Footballer of the Year list which has been run for a decade now by El Mundo of Caracas.

They ran their poll with 18 journalists, and the places at the top were switched around. Zico won with 83 points, followed by Maradona on 77. The Argentine was the winner last year.

Apart from Zico other Brazilians to gain votes were Paulo Roberto Falcao (Roma), Toninho Cerezo, Socrates and Reinaldo — despite the way in which the latter has lately fallen into sudden disfavour with national boss Tele Santana.

WHILE on the same subject, here are some other country by country Footballers of the Year:

Argentina: Maradona . . . Belgium: Jan Ceulemans . . . Brazil: Zico . . . England: Frans Thijssen . . . Bulgaria: Georg Velinov (CSKA Sofia) . . . East Germany: Hans-Ullrich Grapenthin (Carl Zeiss Jena) . . . Hungary: Tibor Nyilasi . . . Rumania: Ilie Balaci (Craiova) . . . Sweden: Thomas Ravelli . . . United States: Giorgio Chinaglia . . . West Germany: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge . . . Yugoslavia: Vladimir Petrovic (Red Star).

JUST for fun . . . using those two major polls, these would be the teams, it seems, if Europe were to take on the Americas:

Europe: Zoff — Krol, Pezzey, Chivadze, Bossis — Platini, Breitner, Schuster — Shengelia, Rummenigge, Blokhin.

Americas: Fillol — Moreira, Figueroa, Passarella, Junior — Toninho Cerezo, Socrates, Maradona — Yanez, Uribe, Zico.

ONE more Footballer of the Year, Lakhdar Belloumi, the Algerian World Cup inspiration, has collected the African crown. his admirers say he's a mixture, half Maradona and half Platini. We'll see, come June.

Voting: 1, Belloumi (Mascara, Alg) 78 pts. 2, Nkono (Canon, Cam) 54. 3, Fergaini (JET Tizi-Ouzou, Alg) 26. 4, Ekoule (Union Douala, Cam) 18. 5, Abega (Canon Yaounde, Cam) and Bouderbala (W. Casablanca) 16. 7, Odegbami (Shooting Stars, Nig) 8. 8, Keita (AS Kaloum, Guinea) 6. 9, Kouadio (ASEC, Iv. Coast) and Zaki (W. Casablanca) 4. 11, Belhacen (JET, Alg) and Toure (Gbessia, Guinea) 3. 13, Armah (Hearts of Oak, Ghana), Cisse (Djoliba, Mali), Chola (Nchanga, Zam), Foneye (Stella Abidjan), Isima (Standard JOS, Nig), Lawal (Shooting Stars, Nig), Ogedegbe (Shooting Stars) all 2. 20, Camara (Kaloum, Guinea), Cerbah (JET, Alg), N'Doumbe Lea (Union Douala, Cam), Kunde (Canon, Cam), Ndjembo (VC Mangoungou, Gabon) all 1.

RETIRED at last, a year after the first announcements, is top Austrian referee Erich Linemayr. Ironic that in World Cup year it remains that the only top match this friendly man never controlled was the World Cup Final.

WHATEVER happened to the World Club Cup? It seems the trophy presented to Flamengo in Tokyo wasn't the real thing. Nacional of Montevideo say they've still got that, and it was a copy they handed over to the World Club organisers.

Now they're proposing to hand the real trophy over to Flamengo on the occasion of a friendly between the clubs. No doubt Nacional — given the parlous state of Uruguayan football — will hope to be paid for the privilege of turning out.

ONE of the first Mitropa Cup ties I ever saw featured the Polish club, Ruch Chorzow, and their star was a speedy left winger named Eugenius Faber.

Because of the emergence of Robert Gadocha, Faber never achieved the recognition he deserved. But he was a loyal enough player for the Polish federation to allow him a transfer to the West once he'd reached 30.

Faber joined Lens in France, that home from home for many an exiled Pole and had a couple of useful seasons there. Once his career had finished, however, Faber returned to Poland.

He maintained contact with friends in Lens, however, and they were hardly surprised when Faber and his family turned up on their doorsteps ten days before Christmas — one of the last batch of families to come out of Poland before the events which have made worldwide headlines.

It was at the prompting of Faber's friends that the Lens club then decided to organise a Help the Polish People match, to raise funds for foodstuffs and supplies to send back to Faber's homeland.

What politicians may try to put asunder, sportsmen will always join together . . .

NOW not quite such an edifying tale . . . it comes from Portugal, who would appear to have football problems enough following their dismal showing over the past 12 months in the World Cup qualifiers.

Portuguese football, it seems, is riddled with tax evasion. And, after years of turning a blind eye, the income tax authorities are starting to call for club accounts and bank statements.

"I've got a clear conscience," said Porto midfielder Costa. "If they want to see them, I've got tax receipts going back years. Of course, I may be an exception . . ."

I'd bet on it!

DIEGO MARADONA . . . deposed as South American Footballer of the Year but still entrenched as the All-Americas top player.

NOTHING, it appears, is sacred.

There was a public outcry in Brazil recently when it was revealed that the ball with which Pele scored the 1,000th goal of his career had been stolen from the football museum in the Maracana stadium.

The ball, which Pele subsequently autographed for posterity, had been struck by him into the back of the net from a penalty in a game at the Maracana between his club, Santos, and Vasco da Gama, in 1969.

It was as if someone had stolen the crown jewels.

Pele even turned up on television, other programmes interrupted, to appeal for the thief or thieves to return this item which meant so much not only to him, but to all Brazilians, everywhere.

Two days later, after an anonymous phone call to police, the ball was found at the side of a swimming pool.

A PROBLEM affecting football round the world is the size of players' wages.

In Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Spain and Italy in the past 12 months, players and teams have gone on strike in protest at the amount of back pay owed to them.

Atletico Madrid, in Spain, asked their players at the start of the year if they'd mind waiting until the end of January for several thousand pounds owed to each man.

But nothing, surely, is as staggering as poor Boca Juniors' plight. They owe Diego Maradona no less than £350,000! No wonder they will sell him after the World Cup. No wonder the likes of Barcelona, Juventus and Real Madrid have already made preliminary contacts.

The question is no longer: Will Maradona be sold? Rather it's: To whom?

OBITUARY. — **Alan Ball senior:** The father of England's World Cup-winning hero Alan Ball, was killed in a car crash in Cyprus aged 57. Ball senior was on the island to take a temporary coaching appointment with the Evagoras club. He had previously managed English clubs Halifax and Preston as well as several teams in Scandinavia.

DATES TO WATCH. — Feb 7 — Tunisia-Algeria . . . Feb 16 — Spain-Scotland (Valencia) . . . Feb 17 — W. Germany-Portugal (W. Berlin) . . . Feb 23 — France-Italy (Paris), British championship: England-N. Ireland. B: W. Germany-Protugal. U21: Scotland-W. Germany.

GOLDEN BOOT LEADERS. — Hansen (Odense) 28. Shengelia (Tbilisi) 23. Jorgensen (1901 Nykobing) 22. Gabrilov (Moscow Spartak), Himanka (OPs) 21. Nilsson (IFK), Blokhin (Kiev) 20. Christensen (Lyngby), Bastrup (Aarhus and Hamburg), Kist (Alkmaar) 18. Skovboe (Naestved), Belfield (KPT) 17. Andersen (KB), Szentes (Raba Gyor) 16. Larsson (Orgryte) 16.

WEST GERMANY by Arthur Rotmil

Beckenbauer in line for World Cup place

THE first Bundesliga, which normally has the shortest summer break in European football, indulged in a brief winter holiday over the Christmas and New Year period. This proved a wise move, for snow and ice disrupted the programme already early in December and although some matches were played on several inches of snow, this was not the fare to entice spectators.

National team manager Jupp Derwall, who did not have to watch any of his candidates, put his feet up over the holidays to reflect on a highly successful season. The West Germans swept the board in the World Cup qualifying group winning all eight matches and amassing the goal tally of 33-3! Yet, there remained niggling doubts about the position at the top of the world rankings.

The answer came with the ratings compiled as usual at the turn of the year by the authoritative news agency 'Internationale Sport-Korrespondenz'. After all the year's results had been computed, this body placed Brazil first, the Soviet Union second and West Germany third. For the record, England were ranked 21st (yest, twenty-first) in the world this past year . . .

Of the eleven matches the Germans played in 1981 they lost three — to the South Americans, Brazil (twice) and Argentina. They are in fact the only countries to have beaten Derwall's charges since he took over the reins in 1978, upon the retirement of Helmut Schön. It is interesting to note, that no German national team manager has ever been fired, they all retired gracefully — Dr. Otto Nerz, Sepp Herberger and Schön.

Derwall now has a healthy respect for the Brazilians and he is delighted that his squad will visit South America to play against both Brazil and Argentina. These games coming fairly close to the finalising of the World Cup forty names, will provide a clear indication as to the West German's standing as potential world champions. In the past year Derwall used altogether 26 players of whom only Rummenigge, Magath and Kaltz took part in every game. Next were Schumacher and Briegel with 10 matches each; K. H. Förster 9; Breitner and Fischer 8; Dremmler, Müller 7; Stielike and Hannes 5; Dietz, Allofs and Allgöwer 4; Hrubesch, Schuster and Borchers 3; Bonhof, Immel, B. Förster, and Littbarski 2 and Votava, Hieronymus Matthäus and Milewski one game each.

Goalscorers: Fischer and Rummenigge 9 each; Kaltz, Breitner, Littbarski 3; Schuster 2; Hrubesch, Allofs, Briegel, Dremmler and Magath 1, plus an own goal.

Derwall was also immensely proud that his internationals made a clean sweep in the European "Footballer of the Year" ratings. In the poll conducted annually by *France Football*, Rummenigge was re-elected, Breitner was second and Schuster third!

The problem boy Schuster was once again very much in the news. After his much publicised statement — "I will not play in the national team as long as Breitner and Rummenigge are there," he had apparently had a change of heart. It was in fact the president of the DFB, Hermann Neuberger who offered to mediate between Schuster and the annoyed Derwall. But hardly did they have time to arrange a "clear-the-air" meeting, when Schuster pulled ligaments in his right knee whilst playing for Barcelona and was out of action, it was feared till March. Thus, he would not have been able to take part in the first few internationals anyway.

Paul Breitner of West Germany.

West Germany's revised programme until the World Cup finals is as follows: 17 February v. Portugal in Berlin; 21 March v. Brazil in Rio; 23 March v. Argentina in Buenos Aires; 14 April v. Czechoslovakia in Cologne and 12 May v. Norway in Oslo.

The question of re-activating Franz Beckenbauer in the national team has also been on the agenda. The country's record capped player (103 internationals) has been in fine form for Hamburger SV and it is no secret that he would like to crown his illustrious career with an appearance in the World Cup.

Although his intention is to hang up his boots at the end of the season, he would of course be delighted if Derwall would call him up. The whole question is still in the "if" and "but" stage.

Meanwhile two years after his return from America, Beckenbauer will be honoured with a testimonial match. This will take place on June 1, when the Hamburger SV will play the national team. The DFB has already announced that on that occasion "Kaiser Franz" will be nominated "Ehrenspielführer" (honorary captain) of the national side, a title for life, which before him only Fritz Walter and Uwe Seeler have received. Whether Beckenbauer plays in Spain in the World Cup, or not, this match in Hamburg will be his farewell from the national team on German soil.

The last full championship round before the winter break was a financial disaster for most clubs. Only 4,000 fans turned out in Munich's Olympic stadium (capacity 78,000) to see Bayern play VfL Bochum, thanks to under-soil heating. This was Bayern's lowest attendance since the club was promoted in 1965. A total of only 70,000 watched the six games — another three were postponed. On most grounds football was played in conditions under which in no other country the referee contemplate starting a match.

The first half of the fixtures is incomplete, but the already registered total of 3.5 million spectators is comparable to the corresponding stage last season. The big clubs reported an increase in gates — the smaller clubs complained of losses. This means that in time the Bundesliga would have to be reduced. MSV Duisburg, for instance, is £500,000 in the red.

Their only hope are the attractive home fixtures against Hamburger SV, Bayern Munich, Cologne and Borussia Mönchengladbach, which should draw the fans. Duisburg, who dropped to bottom place, fired their team manager Friedhelm Wenzlaff and replaced him with Kuno Klötzer. This 59-year-old lost his job last year with Werder Bremen, following a car accident. Before Wenzlaff, three other team bosses had been sacked this season. Heinz Elzner (1 FC Nürnberg), Wilibert Kremer (Bayer Leverkusen) and Manfred Krafft (Karlsruher SC).

BELGIUM by Philip Smith

ANDERLECHT TOP TABLE

THE halfway point in the Belgian season was reached with only four points separating leaders Anderlecht from sixth placed Standard Liege.

Sandwiched between these two great rivals were AA Gent, Kortrijk, Antwerp and Lierse, four clubs with precious little success in recent years but whose presence near the top of the table was a welcome change from the usual championship form of a battle of the Titans.

Despite being beset with injury problems, Anderlecht hauled themselves to the top by virtue of a 2-1 home victory over the then leaders Gent. Peruzovic, Coeck, De Groote and Renquin have all undergone operations for serious injury since the start of the season and though he has a large squad at his disposal, trainer Ivic was running out of players and needed a new recruit. He therefore returned to one of his former clubs, Hajduk Split, to sign midfielder Micun Jovanic on a six month trial with a view to a permanent transfer should both parties take to each other.

Fortunately for the mauve and whites their attack has remained relatively unscathed. The pairing of Kenneth Brylle with the more heavyweight qualities of Willy Geurts has brought the best out of the Belgian, who returned to the international arena after a three-year absence when he made a substitute appearance in the Belgians recent 2-0 defeat in Spain. Geurts spent a fair amount of last season on the bench but according to him Ivic has increased his workrate by 40 per cent and the bustling striker has an excellent chance of picking up one of the World Cup places now on offer.

While it was to be expected that Antwerp and Lierse would be amongst the leading group, few would have expected Gent and Kortrijk to keep in the race. Gent's trainer Robert Goethals has had the fortune to field a virtually unchanged team, using only 15 players in the first 17 games. Compare this with the 24 players already used at Club Brugge and it doesn't become difficult to work out which lies near the top and near the bottom.

KV Kortrijk are managed by ex-Club player Henk Houwaart and have in their ranks Algerian international Djamel Zidane. Apart from their fine away record which already includes six victories, Kortrijk can boast the penalty prowess of keeper Luc Vanderschommen, who has successfully converted five of his six attempts this term, a record for a Belgian goalkeeper.

Standard's form continues to defy all attempts at reasoned explanation. A 3-1 away defeat which gave bottom of the table Mechelen their first win of the season was followed by a 2-1 victory at Antwerp. It came as no surprise to learn that as a parting gift before his forthcoming retirement, Standard's President Roger Petit arranged the signing of Swiss midfielder Rene Botteron from Köln.

As transfers between Belgian clubs are barred during the season, those seeking new faces have acted quickly to beat the December 31 deadline set for signing foreign-based players. Club Brugge, still looking for Vandereycken's replacement, hope to have found their man in Peter Nilsson, a 23-year-old from Oesters with 27 Swedish appearances to his name. Antwerp on the other hand have added the vastly experienced Sandor Pinter to their title-chasing squad. But for a last minute hitch the Hungarian from Honved would have joined Lierse at the start of the season but now he has the chance to link up with Antwerp's other Hungarian Laszlo Fazekas. Other incoming foreigners include two Finns for Gent, an Icelander for Cercle Brugge and two from Zaire for Mechelen.

That most Belgian of Belgians, Wilfried Van Moer, still keeps making the headlines. Not content with scoring two goals in Beveren's 3-0 victory at Standard, the little maestro went to Anderlecht two weeks later and got himself sent off for thumping Brylle, who had just charged Jean-Marie Pfaff into a post and knocked him out. Foreigners will come and go, but it seems that as long as football is played in Belgium Wilfried Van Moer will be in the thick of the action!

The first action after Christmas saw a major surprise in the Belgian Cup, lowly Waterschei emulating their feat of last year when they knocked out favourites Anderlecht. Two goals from substitute Jos Coninx and an inspired display from the German Grundel gave the home side a convincing win which takes them through to the last eight along with Tongeren, Beveren, Waregem, Lockeren, Lierse, Antwerp and little Patro Eisden. With Anderlecht and Standard both eliminated, any one of the seven First Division teams left could end up winners.

Hamburger SV currently boast the best average gates of 40,000 per match — 8,000 more than last year. Even VfB Stuttgart, who slipped down the table, report 3,000 more, while Cologne's gates leapt from an average of 18,000 to 28,000 per game. These figures are just as important as league tables and they explain the managerial dismissals. On the positive side, Borussia Mönchengladbach extended the contract of their team chief, the former international Jupp Heynckes for a further three years.

At the half way stage of the programme the leading goalscorers were: Hoeness (Bayern) 12; Mill (Borussia Mönchengladbach) 11; Hrubesch (Hamburger SV), Breitner (Bayern) and Burgsmüller (Borussia Dortmund) all on 10.

The 1 FC Köln (Cologne) have sold their Swiss midfielder René Botteron to Standard Liege in Belgium. The captain of the Swiss national side, who couldn't command a regular place, fetched £200,000 and was happy to look forward to first team football again. This move could mean that England international Tony Woodcock, despite his differences with the Dutch team chief Rinus Michels, may be staying after all.

There was renewed speculation that Bruno Pezzey may be leaving for the riches of Spain. Pezzey, the Austrian international sweeper who plays for Tottenham's Cup Winners' Cup opponents Eintracht Frankfurt, is rated the currently best 'libero' in Europe. He confirmed that Barcelona anxious to find a replacement for the badly injured Schuster, have approached him. "An offer from Barcelona is always interesting," said Pezzey. Eintracht's vice-president Hermann Höfer has also confirmed that the famous Spanish club have been in contact regarding the possible release of Pezzey, who has already been linked recently with Bayern Munich.

An interesting capture made Second Division Hannover, when they signed the 36 times capped Icelandic international Johannes Edvaldsson. He played formerly for Celtic and recently for Tulsa Roughnecks in the USA. His younger brother Attli is already in the Bundesliga with Fortuna Düsseldorf.

Wolfram Wuttke (20) Borussia Mönchengladbach's striker won a court case against his former club Schalke. Wuttke had signed a contract as a 17-year-old with that club who promised him a basic £1,750 a month, plus an additional, £1,000 for "gradually improved" performances. Schalke refused to pay the extra, but the court ruled that Wuttke had a valid contract and he was entitled to a total outstanding payment of £5,500.

The Germans do not have a Player's Union (like in England) to protect their interests, but instead, the so-called "Arbeits-Gericht" (Labour relations court) are fulfilling their functions admirably enough. By contrast, the Danish international Jens Steffensen (25), who broke his contract with Arminia Bielefeld had to pay a conventional fine of £6,000, when he returned to Denmark where he is negotiating with three clubs.

The *Bundesliga* has four clubs in the quarter-finals of the three European competitions — more than any other league. Bayern Munich, who oppose Rumania's Uni Craiova (Champions Cup), Eintracht, who play Tottenham in the Cup Winners' tourney, while Hamburger SV (v. Neuchatel Xamax) and Kaiserslautern (v. Real Madrid) in the UEFA Cup, complete the line-up. For reaching the last eight, Hamburg's players received a bonus of £2,250 each.

In the Third Round of the DFB Cup there were no real surprises. The next round saw the clash of two most volatile managers in the Bundesliga and both Austrians — Ernst Happel (Hamburg) and Max Markel (Karlsruhe). Hamburg and Bayern Munich are the favourites for the trophy.

SCANDINAVIA by Frank Sjoman

HVIDOVRE WIN DANISH CROWN

VARIATION seems to be the name of the game in Denmark and when Hvidovre came out top of an exciting league championship it meant that the last seven Danish championships has gone to seven different clubs.

It was Hvidovre's third win, the others coming in 1966 and 1973. Of the players only midfielder Klaus Nörregaard remains from the last title-winning side.

Right from the start it has been an interesting league with several teams challenging for top positions and when only the last round remained there were still four teams with chances of the championship. But let's go back . . .

In the 25th round leaders Lyngby lost 2-3 to AGF away after having been 2-0 up in eight minutes. At the same time Hvidovre beat Naestved 1-0 to jump up to first place. Hvidovre were lucky there as Naestved had most of the play. Now Hvidovre had 34 points, Lyngby 33, Naestved 32 and AGF 30.

From the next two rounds Hvidovre collected two, Lyngby one, Naestved three and AGF four points so that the situation with only three games to play became even more thrilling.

Record

Then in the 28th round AGF defeated Hvidovre 2-0 at home with goals from Lars Lundkvist and Per Bech Andersen. It was as good a club match as one could hope to see in Denmark and it drew a record crowd for the season with 18,000 wanting to see it.

Naestved profited from Hvidovre's fall and took the lead on 37 points with AGF and Hvidovre following suite on 36 and Lyngby on 35.

AGF now hadn't lost for eleven matches, winning the last five on the trot, but in the second last game they quite unexpectedly went down 0-2 away to Ikast, one of the bottom clubs. And the score could have been even greater.

At the same time Naestved also lost, 1-3 at home to Vejle, which gave Hvidovre the chance to sneak by and recover first place. With only one game to go Hvidovre had 38 points, Lyngby and Naestved 37 and AGF 36. Lyngby had by far the best goal-difference, the others being about the same.

Hvidovre didn't slip this time. A single goal, scored direct from a free-kick by Steen Hansen was enough to bring them the championship, leaving Lyngby to ponder on what might have been if they hadn't let that 2-0 lead at AGF in the 25th round slip away. Even a draw there would have done the trick.

Surprise

Lyngby were however, the surprise side of the season. The club were, in 1979 promoted to the first division for the first time and could finish only 12th in 1980, though they reached the cup final then.

Hvidovre hadn't exactly set the Danish football-scene alight in the years before. They spent several seasons during the 1970s in the second division, were promoted in 1978 but finished 11th in 1979 as well as in 1980.

Hvidovre used 20 players this season of which only two, forward Michael Manniche (3 caps) and defender Steen Hansen (2 caps) played for Denmark during 1981. However, one has to bear in mind that most of the positions in the full international side are claimed by pros from abroad. This year out of 28 players used by Denmark, eleven were with clubs abroad and most of them are fixtures in the team.

Hvidovre's strength is in defence as can be seen from the fact that no team let in fewer goals but nine managed to score more. The top scorers for the champions were: Jörgen Kirk 10, Henrik Jensen 7, Manniche and Hansen 6 each.

Top league scorers were Allan Hansen (OB) 28; Gert Jörgensen (B 1901) 22; Flemming Christensen (Lyngby) 18.

The relegation issue was also settled on the last day of the season. Kastrup could only draw at home to Naestved 1-1 and that meant that B 1903, that lost 2-3 to Lyngby saved themselves on one single goal. Had they lost 1-3 or 2-4 they would have gone down.

Up from the second division come, for the first time, Bröndbyernes IF (founded only 17 years ago and then in what is virtually the fourth division) and Kolding IF while B 1909 are old hands with a couple of league titles behind them.

Leaving the second division the other way are sensationally, Aab, from Aalborg, for years members of the first division and only relegated from there in 1980.

Rosenborg's collapse

HAVING a three-point lead with only five games to go and having lost only one of the 17 previous matches it looked as if Rosenborg had the Norwegian championship all sewn-up. However, they collapsed.

Rosenborg lost four of the last five matches and only managed to draw the last game, when the title was already lost.

RBK could have won the championship had they won only one more game, the decider versus Valerengen in the 20th round. However, in a hard and exciting match Valerengen triumphed 2-1, the winning goal being scored in the last minute by the promising Henning Bjarnöy.

That meant the Oslo team took over at the top and with a 4-0 win away to last year's champions Start in the next round Vaerengen made sure of the championship. Rosenborg again going down, this time to Viking, who also sneaked pass the struggling Trondheim side.

And so it ended. Valerengen's win was only their second (the first came in 1965) league title and the first one to go to Oslo since 1967 (Lyn).

With a mighty finish, including an unbeaten nine games, six wins and a goal-difference of 26-7 Fredrikstad stormed into fourth place ahead of Moss, who once challenged for the title but crumbled very much like Rosenberg.

Haugar and Lyn went down while Brann, with eight points from the last five games managed to climb above the relegation line to qualify for the promotion and relegation play-off versus the two second placed teams from division two. Brann's joy however, was short-lived since they lost to Molde and went down anyhow.

Top scorer was Pal Jacobsen (Valerengen) with 16 and that took his tally to 57 goals in 97 league games. Those are not bad figures but they look pale when compared to the indestructible Odd Iversen's (Rosenborg) 153 goals in 200 league matches.

Odd scored nine goals this season to end up in a shared third place in the scorer's chart behind Jacobsen and Svein Mathisen (Start) on 12.

The average attendance for the league was 5,800 with Rosenborg having the best home average: 13,068.

Valerengen have only two regular full internationals: midfielder Vidar Davidsen (23 years and 10 caps — 2 goals) and striker Pal Jacobsen (25 years, 29 caps — 9 goals).

In the last Norwegian international of 1981 midfielder Tom Jacobsen made a comeback and played his 13th full international.

Lilleström take the cup

THE CUP is, however, the big thing in Norway and as a matter of fact the winners of the cup tournament are the "real" Norwegian champions, as the cup winners are by tradition called that way.

This year it was Lilleström who defeated Moss 3-1 in the final. In the semi-finals Lilleström had accounted for Valerengen 2-0 while Moss beat Viking also 2-0.

The final was as usual a sell-out with 23,000 watching as Lilleström led by the excellent Tom Lund dominated from start to finish. If it wasn't for his fear of flying, Lund is certain to have been a famous professional abroad. As it is he is by far the most gifted player in Norway.

In the final he scored the second goal from a penalty in the 32nd minute. In the 16th Krogsaether had made it 1-0 and three minutes after half-time it was 3-0 with Lönstad finding the net. Kollshaugen's reducing goal was more a token gesture.

It was Lilleström's third cup win, the yellow and blacks having won it also in 1977 and 1978.

AUSTRALIA by Andrew Dettre

Aussie league may face collapse

IT barely qualified as a phony war; even by Australian standards the noise was subdued, more of a murmur than a distant thunder.

The argument was basically this: who is running Australian soccer: its president, Sir Arthur George or perhaps the clubs?

The test came in a sudden flash of a clash in November. The elitist Philips League — Australia's quasi-national league — which has been peeved for years over their lack of direct representation on the Australian Soccer Federation Executive, lurched into an open confrontation with the good knight and his true-blue associates. The 16 PSL clubs unanimously passed a vote of no confidence in the ASF and in Sir Arthur and then promulgated a hazy list of demands aiming for independence.

PSL chairman Sam Papasavas, a Greek-born Melbourne lawyer, kept the sabres rattling for a few more days, much to the delight of the boulevard press which in Australia shows interest in soccer only when some negative virtues can be displayed.

But before the cold war could be heated up, peace manoeuvres started. Sir Arthur hinted that one, possibly two seats could be found for PSL club delegates on the ASF executive in 1982 and this piece of news, for reasons unknown to most, appeared to soothe the temper of the rebels. Just what, how and why would turn out any different in Australian soccer remained unexplained.

The PSL also demanded an immediate termination of contract with a marketing company — a local arm of London's West Nally group — which, according to the clubs, has received some very large sums for doing actually very little in return.

Problems

Then came the ASF elections and Sir Arthur, a prominent Sydney businessman, investor, developer, solicitor and some other things, was duly re-elected president of the ASF. Unopposed and unanimously, of course.

With that the skirmishes ended. But not soccer's continuing problems in this country.

The Philips League — like its American counterpart, the NASL — is in deep trouble; all 16 clubs lose money on gate takings and most manage to survive only through subsidies, sponsorships, loans or even the classic Aussie chook-raffles; it's the chook, not the kangeroo, who should be in the ASF emblem. Mid-November the very existence of the PSL became doubtful, with the clubs owing to their own secretariat some $300,000; one club didn't even pay the 1981 entry fee.

There were stories and rumours about a dozen of them going to the wall, amalgamating or returning to the less rarified atmosphere of district soccer. Even Sir Arthur — head of the organisation — added to the doomsday gloom when he forecast that by 1983 the PSL clubs might have to rejoin their respective regional leagues. It was like the Pope predicting the demise of the Vatican.

Philips Industries which have been sponsoring the PSL since 1977, thought long and hard about their involvement and then decided to stay for another year — reducing their outlay from an estimated $400,000 a year to about half. But 1982 would be their last year of sponsorship, they added glumly.

The truth is that because of the vast distances and high air travel costs as well as the game's very limited public appeal, soccer cannot aspire to run a national league according to the accepted commercial principles. It cannot have grandiose ambitions when in many cases the paying customers at matches stay below the 1,000 level and seldom reach an average of 3,000.

This would be fine for amateur clubs. But most of the PSL outfits have only a few amateurs — and they are all on the executive. It's not unusual for players to receive a firm annual guarantee of $10,000 plus earn a win bonus of $150 a match; it's a common phenomenon that some clubs cannot meet the match bonuses from the takings — and then what about those signing-on fees? At press time two Sydney clubs, Marconi and St. George were fighting for the signature of a young stopper, Oscar Crino from Melbourne, offering $20,000 in transfer fee and close to $10,000 a year in guarantees plus to the boy. And he has never even kicked a ball in senior soccer; a mere talent, that's all.

All this is not the fault of the ASF, Sir Arthur George, the marketing company or any other organisation; it's the clubs who get carried away with their own ambition, vastly over-estimating the drawing power of the game.

Soccer is NOT the national sport in Australia and probably never will be; it's trailing sadly behind rugby, Aussie Rules, cricket and some others in popularity. It's more like volleyball is in England, waterpolo in Iceland or fencing in Outer Mongolia; it does exist but causes only a modicum of excitement, except among its own aficionados. Neither multi-lingual laments nor sheer bravado and fancy marketing jargons will change this fundamental fact.

Soccer COULD exist quite nicely, as it does in New Zealand, for example, where those in charge have taken realistic stock of the game's resources and appeal and cut their cloth accordingly. But here in Australia we are trying to wrap a tiny body in a giant cape, and it just won't fit.

Against that background one has to wonder what 1982 will bring?

The PSL season will start in February, preceded by a brief visit by Hungary's national side and Vojvodina from Yugoslavia, both taking part in a silver jubilee tournament staged by St. George of Sydney. The rest of the international calendar is unknown.

Perhaps just as well: the ASF, in a dark post-World Cup, mood, decided not to appoint a national coach until 1983; caretaker coach Les Scheinflug has been retained only as part-time coach of the youth team, which did so well in the World Youth Cup in October. Tommy Docherty promises (or threatens?) to return to Sydney where, as he had earlier boasted, he was paid much more than anywhere in England.

Perhaps he should come back not as a coach but as the new ASF president. We mightn't have a better soccer but at least the boredom of it all would vanish, too.

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GOALKEEPER IN COURT

from Lou Economopoulos in Athens

WHILE goalkeeper Vasilis Constantinou finds himself in and out of jail, his Panathinaikos team continues to lead the pack in the Greek First Division.

Constantinou, who is also the national team goalkeeper, was arrested after the Panathinaikos-Serres match (December 27) when he allegedly struck a spectator in the head with a wooden stick. The fan was taken to the hospital and was later released.

According to eye-witnesses, Constantinou hit the Serres fan after the spectator threw a cigarette lighter at Panathinaikos star forward Mike Galakos. Constantinou will have his day in the Serres court on February 4.

Earlier, Constantinou was arrested in Crete after the Panathinaikos-OFI contest. He allegedly showed his genitals to the fans.

Some 300 OFI fans waited for Constantinou after the match outside the stadium and from the crowd rocks were thrown which broke some windows on the coach used by the Panathinaikos team.

"In my 20 years as a professional I have never done anything to anger the fans. I am a family man and would not do such a thing," Constantinou said.

Constantinou wasn't the only one in trouble with the law.

Second Division referee Constantine Pellidis was sentenced to four months in jail for taking a bribe. He was to help Panetolikos win a match and was to receive about £1,130 for his efforts.

Also in the Second Division, Megara player Georgios Kontopoulos was arrested after pulling a knife on the treasurer of the club. A fan in Sparta was sentenced to 10 days in prison for cursing at the referee during a Third Division encounter.

Meanwhile, in the First Division table, Panathinaikos has a two-point lead over suprising Doxa Drama going into the second half of the season. Deadlocked in third place, four points from the leader, is Aris, PAOK and AEK. Olympiakos is a dissapointing sixth with a five-point deficit of Panathinaikos.

Olympiakos sacked their manager, Austrian Helmut Senekovits, and replaced him with former Greek National Team coach Alketas Panagoulias.

"The history of Olympiakos is to chase crowns. But that doesn't appear to be the picture this season. The team has lost its self-assurance. I believe the team can pull itself together again," Panagoulias said.

The most highly paid Greek player, Olympiakos forward Nikos Anastropoulos, said his team is not playing as it should.

Poser for the French

from Andre Duclos

WHO will play outside-left for France in Spain? The question has been agreeably complicated by the sudden return to health and form of Loic Amisse of Nantes. So much so that the well muscled Nantes winger poses a serious challenge to Didier Six and Bellone, who of course shared the recent match played against Eire in Dublin.

"Bellone," said Rene Hauss, the veteran manager of Sochaux, recently, with some feeling, "is really poison and a true striker." Bellone had just scored three of Monaco's goals in a shattering 4-1 win on Sochaux's ground. Those who remember the splendid turn and powerful cross shot with which he scored for France in Dublin will know that this is a fine finisher.

Bruno Bellone is only nineteen years old, and his debut for Monaco was made last season. At the beginning of the present one, he signed as a full professional. Born in Toulon, he has been with Monaco the last five years. If he hadn't been a footballer, he says, he would have liked to be a plumber, like his father, with whom he occasionally worked.

He has, as he says, a strong left foot, a fierce shot, but he would like to improve his right footed shooting, and his heading. He's a pleasant, conscientious boy who doesn't like living far from his parents, and worries when he hears his father is tired, knowing he cannot be there to help him. Though Didier Six has much more experience, youth is emphatically on Bellone's side, and when a player can finish like he does, even at the highest level, he is obviously a potential trump card, not least in a team which, to succeed, has gone back so whole heartedly to the men who played for France in Argentina in 1978.

Among those, of course, is the splendid Dominique Rochteau, whose metamorphosis from outside-right to central striker seemed to be complete at Paris Saint Germain, but who still seems able happily to operate with his World Cup 1978 colleague, Lacombe, in the international attack. Rocheteau points out with a wink and a smile that his happiest days with Saint Etienne, the club which found him and where he made his name, was in a two man striking force with Lacombe himself.

Rocheteau is an intellectual of the game, whose observations are original, intelligent, even at times profound. He is among the few who believe that having 24 teams in the World Cup will lead to an improvement rather than a deterioration of the competition, and he also strongly believes that the game simply has to evolve; away from the kind of thing one saw in the European Nations Cup Finals of 1980.

Rocheteau will not speak badly of Saint Etienne, the club which hastened to sell him after one bad season; he is a sensitive young man who does not go in for depositing blame elsewhere. But he rejoices in being able to play centre-forward rather than merely on the right wing where, he says, his talents, at Saint Etienne, were being stifled.

He looks back on that famous European Cup Final at Glasgow in 1976, when he came on for the last few minutes and electrified the game, galvanised his team's performance, as a negative event. He had already been injured, with a pulled muscle, two weeks earlier, playing against PSV Eindhoven. There is no doubt in his mind that he did himself much harm by playing in Glasgow; however well. An operation followed; and a falling off of his form.

His contract with Paris Saint Germain runs out at the end of this eason. He is learning English and talking about playing in the States, though he is deterred by the fact that he would be dropping to a much lower level.

The French national squad celebrate their qualification for Spain following a 4-0 win over Cyprus.

Trouble for Bearzot

THE nearer the World Cup finals are, the more problems arise for beleagured Italy manager Enzo Bearzot as his players go down injured, writes KEIR RADNEDGE.

The first was Juventus striker Roberto Bettega with a knee injury which will have kept him out for around three months by the time he returns — hopefully towards the end of February.

Then there was Giancarlo Antognoni's dramatic skull fracture (Genoa goalkeeper Silvano Martina is to go on trial, incidentally, for his part in the collision). Antognoni says he'll be back in time to celebrate Fiorentina winning the league title, but until he does try playing no one can be really sure if he will ever recover.

On top of that Ivano Bordon, the Internazionale goalkeeper and perpetual No. 2 to Dino Zoff in the national squad, twisted a knee and also needed surgery.

Finally — yet another knee injury! — this time suffered in training by Roma midfielder Carlo Ancelotti, has further weakened Italy's midfield at a time when Bearzot has problems enough over the temperamental Inter schemer Evaristo Beccalossi.

After being overlooked for the last World Cup qualifier, against Luxembourg, Beccalossi complained that if, when injuries were occurring almost daily, Bearzot didn't want him, then Beccalossi wasn't interested in playing for Italy at all.

Beccalossi has yet to establish any sort of a reputation outside Italy but on his day he's one of the most exciting midfield players around. He's highly skilled and when he's on a purple patch he compares with Antognoni, Prohaska, Brady and Falcao.

The only problem has been a lack of consistency — a factor which made all the more surprising reports that Bayern Munich are interested in signing him.

Inter remain in the top four in the league, but it's in the cup that they scored their best result of the season, knocking out holders Roma in the quarter finals, having been beaten 4-1 in the first leg.

In the Stadio Meazza (formerly San Siro) in Milan, Inter hit back to win 3-0 thanks to two goals from spearhead Sandro Altobelli, who had just returned after a two-match suspension.

Roma, unbeaten in the cup for nearly three years, looked a shadow of the team who have been up alongside Inter in the league title race.

Personally I've a suspicion that coach Nils Liedholm is becoming bored with Roma. He's said that if they don't win the championship this season then he'll quit, and that certainly didn't help morale, because the players idolise him.

Roma's chances aren't enhanced either by the fact that they'll probably let Brazil midfielder Paulo Falcao go home early to join his country's World Cup squad. Already Falcao's mind is wandering in those directions: he's just signed a £35,000 four-month promotional contract with one firm. The only condition is that Falcao becomes a member of the Brazil Cup squad!

Apart from Inter, other Cup semi-finalists include Catanzaro — whose league match with Roma was peculiarly abandoned after 38 minutes because of high winds! — and Torino. Cup final runners-up for the last two years, Torino have been going through a sticky patch. Dutch defender Michel Van der Korput earned a three-match suspension and president Orfeo Pianelli has been more concerned with the fate of his struggling business concerns.

Now he's come through that — thanks, ironically, to a loan from Juventus patron Gianni Agnelli and Fiat! — maybe he'll take up the Torino reins more firmly.

Torino's internal problems are nothing compared with those of Milan. Ex-Vicenza president Giussi Farina is due to take over as major shareholder but several members' action groups have been formed to fight Farina. On top of that were rumours concerning the doubtful future of centre forward Joe Jordan, and coach Gigi Radice is walking the most tricky of tightropes.

Milan have got themselves off the bottom of the table — but only just. They have ten points, the same as Bologna, with only Como below them, on eight. Cesena and Torino both have 11 points.

Como, incidentally, have sacked coach Pippo Marchioro, while another club taking drastic measures of a different kind are Cagliari. Though the Sardinians are in midtable they're only on 12 points, and in a bid to improve attendances and support for the team, they've cut ticket prices by one third.

But the major interest in the league is in Fiorentina's progress at the top. It's odd, but they've exploded into championship form since Antognoni's injury. Ex-Torino schemer Eraldo Pecci has blossomed into fine form out of Antognoni's shadow. But the revelation has been 26-year-old Luciano Miani.

A utility defender, Miani should have been playing in the third division this season with Vicenza. But after a loan with Udinese last year he refused to return to Vicenza and Fiorentina picked him up in the 'autumn sales'.

Strong in the tackle, fast and without frills, he's provided the solidity Fiorentina needed in a midfield which leant too far towards the artistic.

The proof is in the way they have leapt up the table. They were bottom at the start of the season, but now they're clearly ahead.

UJPEST DOZSA LEAD IN HUNGARY

by Leslie Vernon

IN heavy snow, on icy pitches, knee deep in mud, the heroic Hungarian footballers kept on playing in December in order to keep the spring half of the season free for the national team's preparations for the World Cup.

Three extra rounds were almost completed when the F.A. called a halt to the farcical proceedings, and after twenty matches, the autumn season mercifully came to an end. Only the Vasas v. Volan game had to be postponed until March — first it was impossible to stage, then at the second attempt, it was abandoned by referee Palotai, because the pitch became dangerous to life and limb.

Ujpest Dozsa lead the table at the close, followed by a trio of provincial clubs, and then after a small gap, there is the sorry sight of the three "big" clubs of the capital, Ferencvaros, Vasas and Honved at fifth, sixth and seventh places.

The relegation spots are occupied by Volan, Ozdi Kohasz and Szeged. Ujpest Dozsa (28 points) were steady rather than inspired, they beat Haladas 2-0, and grabbed one point at Zalaegerszeg, where they drew 2-2 after the home team took a two goal lead.

Manager Miklos Temesvari was understandably satisfied with the season's balance sheet. "Our defensive work has improved, and we conceded fewer goals than any other team in the First Division. The reason behind that is our hard-working midfield-line — the players are always willing to help out the defence. But we must improve our form away from home, we dropped points because we didn't take our goal-scoring chances."

Raba ETO (27 points) were the surprise packets of the current championship, and under new manager Jozsef Verebes, they are playing exciting, attacking football. They beat Ozd 9-2 and Szeged 8-0! These results show ambition, because in Hungary, most teams stop playing once they have scored three or four goals. Raba, with the giant contribution of central striker Szentes, registered 62 goals in 20 matches.

Verebes: "We are in a much better position than I anticipated at the beginning of the campaign. Our forwards and midfielders deserve a great deal of credit, but the defence (33 goals against) must improve if we want to maintain our challenge for the championship."

Videoton (27 points) beat Zalaegerszeg 2-1 and Szeged away by the same score, but lost to Tatabanya at home 2-0. Manager Antal Szentmihalyi was satisfied with his team, because he was forced to utilise a number of young, inexperienced players. Videoton are a good bet for a UEFA-Cup place next season.

Tatabanya (26 points) lost international Csapo who had an operation, and in his absence, they dropped points at Nyiregyhaza and at home against Raba ETO. Nevertheless, veteran manager Dr. Karoly Lakat was happy with the half-time result, because the team are in a prominent position on the table, and during the 14 spring rounds, he is hoping for further improvement.

Ferencvaros (23 points): A sorry situation for the champions, who lost eight (!) times, and were beaten in the First Round of the European Cup by Banik Ostrava. Nyilasi is still injured, but without him, "Fradi" beat Debrecen 1-0 away from home and Bekescsaba 3-1 at the Ulloi-Ut in front of a 7,000 crowd.

For the most popular team in Hungary, fifth in the League, five points behind mediocre leaders is not an enviable position to be in, and Dezso Novak, their manager, didn't hide his disappointment: "Our pre-season plans came to nothing, because the new signings didn't fulfil their early promise. Poloskei has been a below-average midfielder, I couldn't find a permanent place for Szanto, and I can only praise Rab and Ebedli for their consistency. We must improve in every department if we are to finish in the top three."

Vasas (22 points — 19 matches): A poor season for the blue-and-reds, and mager Bundzsak was only pleased with the contribution of his younger players.

Honved (22 points): The Army-team badly missed the Belgium-bound Kozma from their forward-line, and the defence was vulnerable too. Generally speaking, the first half of the season hasn't been too bad, but there are no outstanding candidates for the title — Dozsa might stay in front if they maintain their end of season form. Top goal-scorers: 16 goals — Szentes (Raba ETO). 13 goals — Kerekes (Debrecen), Sandor Kiss (Ujpest Dozsa). 11 goals — Dobany (Pecs), Hannich (Raba ETO). The first round of the Cup was full of the usual "surprises" — seven First Division clubs were beaten by lower class opponents. MTK/VM, now leading one section of the Second Division, beat Ferencvaros 2-0 in front of 8,000 people. Tatabanya lost on penalties at Kiskunfelegyhaza, and Csepel, Zalaegerszeg, Debrecen, Byiregyhaza and Szeged were also humiliated. Do these teams take the Cup seriously? is the eternal question, and the answer in some cases must be — no . . .

Manchester clubs look to Norway

by Derick Allsop

MANCHESTER clubs City and United have been shopping around in Norway this season.

City, sensing the possibility of landing a bargain, signed international defender Aage Hareide from Molde FK.

United checked on forward Pal Jacobsen and went one step further with goalkeeper Frode Hansen, taking him on trial.

But while Hareide settled into the Maine Road squad and soon made his debut, Hansen failed to convince United they should gamble a fee on his potential.

City saw in Hareide the uncompromising qualities that go hand-in-hand with the English game. The tall, slim blond displayed his ability in frustrating England in Oslo and City were well satisfied with their £10,000 worth.

Einar Aas did the reputation of Norwegians no harm after his move to Nottingham Forest and City boss John Bond reasoned he could scarcely lose.

"It was Bill Foulkes who told me he liked him and that he would be well worthwhile considering," said Bond.

"We did consider him and decided to go ahead. He is a very strong lad, a good tackler and he can play. He wants to use the ball.

"These days, let's face it, £10,000 is nothing. We have to pay another £15,000 or so if he plays 25 games but we'd be well pleased to have to do that."

Hareide quickly forced himself on to the first team scene, making his introduction as substitute against Nottingham Forest in the League and again against Stoke City in the League Cup.

Then came his chance of a full debut at Everton, and he secured it by dropping out of Norway's final World Cup qualifying match against Hungary.

He said: "It was stupid of the Norwegian FA to agree to play the game on Saturday. Six of their top players are with foreign clubs and they all have League matches that day.

"I must now concentrate on giving myself the best possible chance of succeeding with Manchester City, and I cannot afford to turn down matches here.

"Norway would never have much chance in Hungary anyway so I think that there is far more point in my giving everything to City."

Norway did, indeed, fail to make the trip to Spain and Hareide made a decisive contribution to the game at Goodison Park.

In a tense, physical game, Hareide provided the cross which penetrated the Everton defence and Dennis Tueart pounced to score the only goal of the afternoon.

Not that this was entirely a story-book debut for him. Late in the match he was substituted and he had to wait three more games for a recall — in the No. 12 shirt.

City had decided to use him to bolster the midfield, and although he tackled the job with great determination he didn't look totally comfortable.

By now Bond's son Kevin had arrived and eventually there were three key candidates for the two central defensive positions. They were Bond, Tommy Caton and Nicky Reid. Hareide wasn't even in the frame.

At the time of writing his hopes of at least climbing up the pecking order were lifted by City's need to recoup some of their considerable outlay on transfers.

Reid, admired by Everton, provided an obvious potential source of revenue. As the public transfer debate raged Hareide remained a quiet but extremely interested observer.

United had long searched for an understudy to Gary Bailey and replacement for the hapless Paddy Roche. Hansen looked a distinct possiblity.

The Young Norway keeper was watched and then invited to England to train with United. A week later the club's interest was diluted and Hansen went back home.

He played for the reserves in a match against non-league Altrincham but didn't put on the most impressive of shows.

SPAIN '82 — The World Cup Finals programme

1st round June 13-25	2nd round** Jun 28-July 5	Semi-finals July 8	3rd pl. match July 10	Final July 11
Group 1 Coruna, Vigo	Group A (Barc. N/Camp) Winners 1 Winners 3 Runners-up 2	IN Barcelona, Nou Camp	IN Alicante	IN Madrid, Bernabeu
Group 2 Oviedo, Gijon	Group B (Madrid, Bern.) Winners 2 Winners 4 Runners-up 5	Winners A v. Winners C		
Group 3 Elche, Alicante BUT Opening Match in Barc. N/Camp			Losers A/C v. Losers B/D	Winners A/C v. Winners B/D
Group 4 Valladolid, Bilbao	Group C (Barc., Sarria) Runners-up 1 Runners-up 3 Winners 6	IN Seville, S-Pizjuan		
Group 5 Zaragoza, Valencia	Group D (Madrid, Calder.) Runners-up 2 Runners-up 4 Winners 5	Winners B v. Winners D		
Group 6 Malaga, Seville				

To artificially maintain interest in ALL three games in each second round group, the winners of the FIRST game will not play again until the THIRD game — thus the group fixtures will be interchangeable to avoid a 'meaningless' third match, as seen in the Mundialito in Uruguay in January.

WORLD SOCCER NEWSDESK

UNION DOUALA of Cameroon put the icing on the cake created by the national team's World Cup qualification, when they landed the African Cup-winners' Cup.

They are the third Cameroon winners of the trophy since its inception in 1975, following Tonnerre of Yaounde, who were the first winners when they beat Stella of Abidjan 4-1 overall, and later Canon Yaounde.

Canon trounced Gor Mahia of Kenya 8-0 on aggregate to win the cup three years later.

Both Tonnerre and Canon have also been losing finalists, going down to Nigerian clubs IICC (Shooting Stars) of Ibadan, and Rangers (International) of Enugu.

So Union Douala's success over Stationery Stores of Lagos meant that in the competition's seven years Cameroon clubs have won on three occasions and taken part in five finals — a near monopoly.

Union were clear favourites. This was the first time the Nigerian club had ever appeared in an African club tournament. The first leg ended in a goalless draw in Cameroon, with the Union forwards wasting a host of chances. N'Doumbe Lea also missed a 42nd-minute penalty after Enanga had been brought down by Sule Mohammed.

The Nigerians also had a man sent off but held out for what they thought was a major stepping stone towards overall victory.

Little did they know. Union were transformed in the return. Bravely playing 4-2-4, with Enanga up alongside star striker Ekoule they were soon 2-0 ahead. The Nigerians hit further trouble when goalkeeper Rufai was carried off injured, but though they pulled one goal back, Union ran off with the Cup.

ZAMBIA by James Mwambazi

ZAMBIA called up 60 players from which the final squad of 22 was selected for the finals in Libya of the African Cup of nations.

The job of preparing the team has gone to Lt. Col. Brightwell Banda, Green Buffaloes' technical director. He will be assisted by Red Arrows coach, Boniface Simutowe. Ante Buselic, a Yugoslav and former Zambia national coach (1971 to 1975) is back for the third time, as technical adviser. Buselic helped in preparing the team during their qualifying ties against Morocco and Zimbabwe.

The football association has spent £100,000 on the mission to Libya. Zambia's road began with a bye in the first round, they beat Morocco 3-1 on aggregate in the second round and Zimbabwe 3-0.

In Libya Zambia were drawn in group B along with holders Nigeria, Algeria, Morocco and Ethiopia. Group A consisted of hosts Libya, Cameroon, Ghana and Egypt.

MALTA by Silvio Vella

MALTESE football can at last look forward to some brighter future prospects after the Main Football Association and the Government Sports Ministry have come to an agreement which ended the existing dispute between the two bodies for the last couple of years.

Just after the MFA decided that Malta should take part in the coming European championships, a two-year agreement was signed which guarantees that all international matches at both national and club level will be played at the grass-covered new stadium at Ta Qali.

This pitch will also soon be the venue for the premier division league fixtures.

REP. IRELAND by Paul Büttner

THE introduction of the new points system (3-home win, 4-away win, 2-away draw and 1-home draw) into League of Ireland football had its critics even before it was seen in action. But now after 17 series of matches the critics are not so sceptical.

The two points for an away draw was the major element of disagreement but it offers more to the visiting team and puts extra pressure on the home side — the result being more attacking football, leaving most people relatively happy. Bohemians are enjoying the change in points format as they are unbeaten away from home, their side strengthened greatly by the introduction of players such as Jackie Jameson. But champions Athlone Town are going through an injury crisis and went down 1-7 to Dundalk recently.

NASL FINAL TABLE FOR 1981

Eastern Division	P	W	L	F	A	B	Pts
New York	32	23	9	80	49	64	200
Montreal	32	15	17	63	57	55	141
Washington	32	15	17	59	58	51	135
Toronto	32	7	25	39	82	37	77
Southern Division	**P**	**W**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B**	**Pts**
Atlanta	32	17	15	62	60	53	151
Fort Lauderdale	32	18	14	54	46	44	144
Jacksonville	32	18	14	51	46	41	141
Tampa Bay	32	15	17	63	64	53	139
Central Division	**P**	**W**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B**	**Pts**
Chicago	32	23	9	84	50	63	195
Minnesota	32	19	13	63	57	55	163
Tulsa	32	17	15	60	59	54	154
Dallas	32	5	27	27	71	26	54
Western Division	**P**	**W**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B**	**Pts**
San Diego	32	21	11	68	49	55	173
Los Angeles	32	19	13	53	55	48	160
California	32	11	21	60	77	51	117
San Jose	32	11	21	44	78	42	108
North Division	**P**	**W**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B**	**Pts**
Vancouver	32	21	11	74	43	62	186
Calgary	32	17	15	59	54	51	151
Portland	32	17	15	52	49	45	141
Seattle	32	15	17	60	62	51	137
Edmonton	32	12	20	60	79	51	123

Six points for a win (Regulation, Overtime), 4 points for a win in the shoot out: Bonus Points: one point is awarded for each goal scored in regulation up to a maximum of three per team per game.

Finland — final table

						PO	BP	TP
Helsingin JK, Helsinki	7	5	1	1	57-32	11	+14	25
Kuopion PT	7	2	3	2	56-28	7	+16	23
Valkeakosken Haka	7	4	1	2	54-34	9	+14	23
Turun PS, Turku	7	2	4	1	46-27	8	+14	22
Ilves, Tampere	7	3	1	3	59-46	7	+12	19
Kotkan TP	7	1	3	3	38-36	5	+13	18
Kuopion PS	7	1	4	2	46-50	6	+12	18
Oulun PS	7	1	1	5	55-58	3	+13	16

PO = Play-Off-Points, BP= Bonus Points, which are half the number of points won during the first part of the season (22 matches), TP = Total Points.

Promotion-Relegation table

						PO	BP	TP
Kuusysi, Lahti (II)	7	4	2	1	17- 8	10	+4	14
Kuopion Elo (II)	7	5	1	1	12- 4	11	+2	13
Kokkolan PV (II)	7	4	1	2	16-10	9	+3	12
x) Sepsi-78, Seinäjoki (I)	7	3	2	2	16-11	8	+4	12
x) Rovaniemen PS (I)	7	4	1	2	16-13	9	+3	12
MP Mikkeli (I)	7	0	3	4	7-18	3	+2	5
Espoon Honka (II)	7	1	1	5	7-16	3	+1	4
Mikkelin PK (I)	7	1	1	5	8-19	3	+1	4

PO = Play-Off Points, BP = Bonus Points awarded in accordance with the positions reached during the first part of the season, TP = Total Points.

x) Play-Off on neutral ground for the last place in next year's Div. I: Sepsi-78 — RoPS 3-1.

***Topscorers (only the top eight teams):* Himanka, OPS, 21; Belifield, KPT, 17; Jaakonsaari, HJK, 12.**

TURKEY

A STORM followed the dismissal of coach Brian Birch by Galatasaray. The critics said his team had gone in for too much square passing, but Birch replied that the players available weren't able to play a fast more attacking style.

He said he had made a mistake returning to Galatasaray for a second time even though the contract was worth £34,000 a year. He complained that many of the club's transfer bids failed to materialise and a club ban on press interviews had meant he couldn't keep the fans properly informed of development and team building plans.

Surprise league leaders have been Skaryaspor. The modest club from Sakarya won five of their first eight away games and over the last eight matches have yet to concede a goal. Coach is a Yugoslav, Yivadinovic, and the key forward is Tuna, who was signed last season from Fenerbahce.

Galatasaray's new coach is Özkan Sümer, a former manager of the national side.

Top scorers so far are Bora (Besiktas), K. Hüseyin (Gaziantepspor), Halil Ibrahim (Ankaragücü) and B. Mustafa (Altay Izmir) all on six goals.

IRAQ

EACH of the national team players who helped beat Brazil's Sao Paulo in the Merdeka tournament last September are to receive a car and a house as a reward from President Saddam Hussain.

LIECHTENSTEIN

LIECHTENSTEIN beat Malaysia 1-0 to record a victory in thier first international in Europe. Sklarski scored in the 20th minute.

New interest in football in the tiny country squashed between Switzerland and Austria had been aroused by a national team appearances in the President's Cup in South Korea last summer.

HONG KONG

BRILLIANT performances from Australia's Peter Sharne and veteran Ricky Heppolette, formerly of Crystal Palace, saw Eastern beat Rangers 4-0 in the final of the Senior Shield. Eastern fielded new signing Bobby Moore, the former England star, for the final 15 minutes. With each player earning £800 bonus it's probably the easiest money Moore has earned in his life.

In the league, however, it has been a different story with Seiko six points clear of nearest challengers Bulova with only nine games left to play.

NASL SLUMP CAUSES CRISIS

SOCCER in North America suffered a setback in 1981. In most cases attendances throughout the North American Soccer League slumped as interest waned and by the end of the season five teams had quietly picked up their corner flags and stolen away. That number could yet increase as indications are that Minnesota, Los Angeles and Jacksonville are in trouble while players in San Diego are being asked to take a cut in pay to keep the team alive.

Even the attendances at the Soccer Bowl, the NASL showpiece, dropped as only 36,971 turned up to Toronto's 54,472 seat Exhibition Stadium to see the Chicago Sting upset the favoured New York Cosmos 1-0 on a shoot out. It was the lowest attendance for a final in four years.

The only people happy with this state of affairs it seemed were the sports editors who regularly and hopefully predict soccer's demise. Things were particularly bad in Toronto where the agency hired by the NASL to promote the Soccer Bowl had such a difficult time trying to get the daily papers to cover the game that they bought three pages in the Toronto Star (Canada's largest newspaper) and filled them soccer stories.

Non-event

One sports editor of a Toronto daily termed Soccer Bowl a "non event" and another compared it in importance to a "lawn bowling tournament". Said Christine Yankou, an employee of the agency: "It's amazing, these people hate soccer. I have never run into this with any other sport."

The Toronto Star it seems got its own back, by running its Soccer Bowl story on page five of the sports section on game day while featuring a ladies body-building contest on the front page.

Here is how the year looked team by team in the NASL in 1981 along with the final league tables.

Atlanta Chiefs: The team with the worst record in the NASL in 1980 rebounded in 1981 to capture the Southern Division championship thanks to a superb coaching job from David Chadwick and the goalscoring exploits of Brian Kidd. At the beginning of the season I wrote Atlanta off because they had basically the same players who had failed the year before, and while the Chiefs proved me wrong on the field, they got the axe off the field as one of five teams to fold up this season.

Calgary Boomers: After a dismal start to the season when the team had one win and eight losses in its first nine games, the Boomers came back to finish with a record of 17 wins and 15 losses good enough for second place in the Northwest Division. The signing of striker Franz Gerber and defender Holger Brueck from West Germany helped Calgary with Gerber scoring 20 goals in 25 games. Unfortunately for the Boomers they were forced to play all their play-off games away from home because their stadium was being used for a religious revival. Not around in 1982.

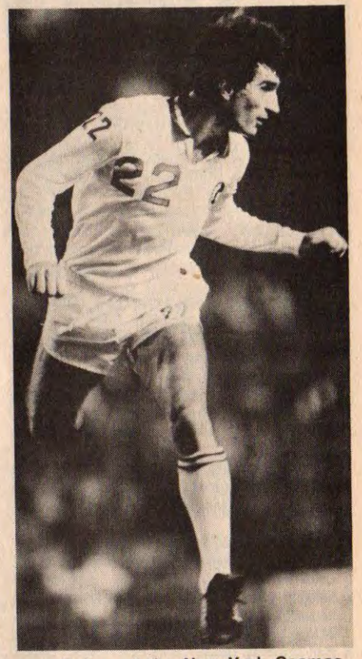
California Surf: Not even the signings of Carlos Alberto and Paulo Cesar could save the Surf who got good performances from American winger Steve Moyers and Egyptian winger Ossama Khalil who scored eleven goals in 15 games. The Surf, like Calgary and Atlanta, will not be around next season.

Dubious

Chicago Sting: Winners of Soccer Bowl '81, albeit by the somewhat dubious means of a shoot out, the Sting had its greatest season ever both on the field and at the gate, with a record crowd of 39,623 on hand to see the final play-off game against San Diego. A strong West German connection plus some good American players won it for the Sting while coach Willy Roy was voted Coach of the Year in the NASL.

Dallas Tornado: Despite having good players like Wolfgang Rausch, Zequinha and Flemming Lund the Tornado had their poorest season since 1968 and with the resulting poor attendance the leagues oldest surviving franchise called its quits at seasons end.

Willy Roy, manager of the Chicago Sting.



Ivan Buljan of the New York Cosmos.

Edmonton Drillers: The NASL Indoor Champions and one of the better teams in the NASL in 1980, the Drillers failed badly in 1981. The firing of general manager Graham Leggat early in the season probably hurt them a great deal, while injuries to key players like Dwight Lodeweges, also hurt. Coach Timo Liekoski was fired in mid-season then re-hired days later.

Fort Lauderdale Strikers: Soccer Bowl finalists in 1980, the Strikers really didn't come alive until the play-offs began, but even then were beaten in the semi-finals by the Cosmos. Coach Eckhard Krautzun got great goalkeeping from Jan Van Beveren some oustanding midfield skill from Teofilo Cubillas and in the play-offs a lot of goals from Branko Segota.

Goals

Jacksonsille Tea Men: Moved from New England to Jacksonville before the season began the Tea Men did not find it easy going in Florida and were on the brink of folding up at the end of the season. On the field Noel Cantwell did his usual fine coaching job and the Tea Men got goals from Alan Green and some fine midfield play from Tony Brown.

Los Angeles Aztecs: Brazilian coach Claudio Coutinho's first season in the NASL and the Aztecs had one of the better records in the league and yet never seemed to be seriously in the running for any honours. Mihalj Keri had another outstanding season in the defence while young Canadian goalkeeper Chris Turner was one of the Aztecs success stories.

NORTH AMERICA by Colin Jose

Minnesota Kicks: Former Arsenal and Everton goalkeeper Geoff Barnett's first head coaching job turned out well for him when he took over from Freddie Goodwin, and the Kicks had yet another successful season on the field, without setting the league on fire. A good all round team performance did it for Minnesota. Off the field bad fiscal management now looks certain to spell the end of this one of the league's most successful franchises for some years.

Montreal Manic: A fine coaching job by Eddie Firmani who welded an average group of players into a team to be reckoned with. He got an outstanding performance from Gordon Hill, and as a result the Manic were the success story of the 1981 NASL.

New York Cosmos: No longer the attraction they were in the days of Pele and Beckenbauer, the Cosmos were still the class of the NASL in 1981, even though they did lose in the final. Giorgio Chinaglia once again proved his worth and was voted the league's Most Valuable Player. The Cosmos also got good goalkeeping from Hubert Birkenmeier and a good performance in midfield from Vladislav Bogicevic.

Portland Timbers: An improved performance by the Timbers under Vic Crowe another coach who got a good team performance from his players.

Play-offs

San Diego Sockers: Some fine individual performances here from Volkmar Gross in goal, Kazimierz Deyna in midfield and Mike Stojanovic scoring the goals. But for a broken jaw suffered by Stojanovic in the first round of the play-offs, the Sockers might have made it to the Soccer Bowl instead of Chicago.

San Jose Earthquakes: Despite showing a big improvement over 1980 the Earthquakes had another poor season. A rejuvenated George Best was the highlight here and won the NASL "Goal of the Year" award for a brilliant effort against Fort Lauderdale.

Seattle Sounders: The Sounders failed to reproduce the form that made them the best team in the NASL during the 1980 regular season, even though they won the Trans-Atlantic Cup. Internal problems and the loss of Tommy Hutchinson undoubtedly hurt the Sounders while Roger Davies who scored 25 goals last year got just 6 in 1981.

Tampa Bay Rowdies: After a bad start to the season Gordon Jago's excellent coaching turned things around for the Rowdies and they almost upset the Cosmos in the play-offs. Injuries played a part in the Rowdies problems but new signings Peter Roe, Terry Moore, David Moss and Luis Fernando came through for Tampa.

Toronto Blizzard: Undoubtedly the poorest season in Toronto's NASL history, and as a result the fans stayed away in droves. One of the bright features was the play of young Canadian Randy Ragan, while for too many of the imported players played as if they were on vacation.

Tulsa Roughnecks: Despite the turmoil that always seems to surround this team, the Roughnecks had another good season. Charlie Mitchell started the season as coach only to be replaced by Terry Hennessey. Duncan McKenzie was one of the reasons for Tulsa's success.

Vancouver Whitecaps: Despite winning its division the Whitecaps bowed out early in the play-offs. In his first season of coaching in the NASL Johnny Giles got a good performance from young Canadian Gerry Gray, Welshman Terry Yorath and the rejuvenated Peter Lorimer.

Washington Diplomats: In a battle for second place in the Eastern Division with the Montreal Manic all season long, the Dips eventually bowed out of the play-offs picture and the league in the final game of the regular season. Outstanding for the Diplomats was Malcolm Waldron who scored 13 goals from his defensive position.

SINCE THE National Professional Soccer League was formed in 1967 and merged with the United Soccer Association in 1968 to form the North American Soccer League, the league has had teams in 39 different cities across the United States and Canada. Some have lasted a long time while others have flickered and died after just one season.

The table below lists the cities that have had NASL teams and the years in which those teams operated. In a number of cases a city has operated a team under various names and different owners. For example in 1968 we had the San Diego Toros while in 1976 we had the San Diego Jaws. Both of those teams lasted one season, but the San Diego Sockers formed in 1978 have been around for four seasons now and are scheduled to operate again in 1982.

Sixteen teams are listed for 1982 down five from the 21 teams of 1981. These sixteen have to be considered tentative at this stage in view of past years when teams have changed cities and owners at the last minute.

Teams	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
Baltimore	X	X	X					X	X							
Philadelphia	X						X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
New York	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Atlanta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	
Pittsburgh	X															
Oakland	X	X										X				
St. Louis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Chicago	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Toronto	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Los Angeles	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X*
Washington		X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Boston		X						X	X	X		X	X	X		
Cleveland		X														
Detroit		X										X	X	X		
Kansas City		X	X	X												
Houston		X										X	X	X		
Dallas		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
San Diego		X								X		X	X	X	X	X
Vancouver		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rochester				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Montreal					X	X	X								X	X
Miami						X	X	X	X	X						
Denver								X	X			X				
San Jose								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Seattle								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hartford									X	X	X					
Tampa Bay									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Antonio									X	X						
Portland									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Minnesota										X	X	X	X	X	X	X*
Fort Lauderdale											X	X	X	X	X	X
Honolulu											X					
Las Vegas											X					
Anaheim												X	X	X	X	
Memphis												X	X	X		
Tulsa												X	X	X	X	X
Edmonton													X	X	X	X
Calgary															X	
Jacksonville															X	X*
Totals	10	17	5	6	8	8	9	15	20	20	18	24	24	24	21	16

*DOUBTFUL

Top goalscorer Giorgio Chinaglia.

SOUTH AMERICA by Eric Weil

River Plate's title after Oeste slip

RIVER PLATE won the Argentine national championship for the third time to join leading winners Boca Juniors, Independiente and Rosario Central on three title wins each and qualify for the Libertadores Cup, which they have never won, for the 10th time.

It was also their seventh title (including first division championships) since 1975, but the first since 1941 in which Angel Labruna had not been directly associated as a player or coach.

Labruna was dismissed by River Plate before the national championship in favour of another of their former players, Alfredo Di Stefano, who thus became the first coach ever to take both deadly rivals Boca Juniors (1969/70) and River Plate to championships. We say that Labruna was not directly involved this time, but on the last day of the national championship qualifying group play, Labruna took his new club, Talleres Córdoba, by then out of contention, to Loma Negra where they unexpectedly held the home team to a draw. This allowed River to draw level on points with Loma Negra and qualify for the quarterfinals on goals. People keep remembering that Labruna's contract with River Plate did not run out until the end of 1981 and at the time he was still on their pay-roll.

Goalkeeper Fillol, defender Passarella and midfield trio J. Lopez, Alonso and Merlo were already in the team which started the impressive series of seven title wins in 1975, but this latest title is hard to understand after they just made the quarterfinals by the skin of their teeth. Once the most attack minded team in Argentine soccer, they have become more and more defensive and destructive with an international rear-guard of Gallego, Passarella, Tarantini and Olarticoechea.

They won because Argentine soccer today completely lacks creative attackers and the few there are lack protection from referees against rough play. River Plate ended the year with a 24-19-11 record in 54 matches in both first division and national championships 93-74 with most of their goals coming from Diaz 18, Kempes 15 and defender Passarella 14.

There can be no disputing that River Plate won the final well, taking both the home and away legs by 1-0 against FC Oeste. On the day they showed more experience for the big occasion and Kempes, the star they bought to offset Boca's adquisition of Maradona but who received a six-match suspension and could only play in the second leg, fittingly scored the goal.

But there can also be no disputing that FC Oeste were the best team of the season. They were not outstanding, but the only side which played as a team. They were second in both first division and national championships with easily the best over-all record of 31-16-7. They did it with a squad of just 17 players who were paid on time, well prepared under coach Griguol and well disciplined. They were one of only three clubs not to finish in the red and owing their players several months pay — Velez Sarsfield and Independiente are the others — and they should be set up as an example to the rest of Argentina's soccer clubs who are wallowing in debt, change their line-ups and coaches continually and play worse soccer all the time.

The quarter finals had seen River Plate and Independiente winning their away legs 2-1 respectively against defending champions Rosario Central and Instituto Córdoba and then going less than all out to draw 0-0 at home which was enough. FC Oeste, meanwhile won 1-0 at home to Gimnasia y Esgrima Jujuy, the only non-first division club to make the play offs, but they improved on their erratic performance in the second leg to also win 1-0 away.

In the Boca Juniors-Velez Sarsfield first leg, which Boca won 2-1 at home near the end, six players were sent off, three per team, including Maradona and Boca without Maradona deservedly crashed out of the championship 3-1 in the second leg although Velez were no great shakes either with a slow defence. Yet they had veteran centre-forward Bianchi, a striker of the old mould, who finished as leading championship scorer with 15 goals, followed by Amuchastegui (Racing Córdoba) and Maradona 11.

In the semi finals both River Plate and FC Oeste gave the impression that they could have done more in their away legs if they had come out of their shell. Still River drew 1-1 at Independiente and went through on the away goals rule after drawing 0-0 at home, but they were lucky as Independiente missed some chances. FC Oeste won 2-1 at Velez, coming back to score just on time after defending an early 1-0 lead for most of the match.

With the season barely over there is already one coach change. Marzolini failed to agree on terms with first division champions Boca Juniors who will lose Maradona, having been unable to pay his four million dollar purchase price. Vladislao Cap, national team coach during the 1974 World Cup, is taking over at Boca who are in deep financial trouble, owe their large professional staff of 38 several months salary and Maradona well over half a million dollars.

There is talk of a maximum wage and maximum contracts per club agreement which is unlikely to come off, but most clubs are likely to reduce their staffs drastically leaving a lot of players out of work. And River Plate are going to be hard put to win a title next year. For the national championship, to be played before the World Cup, they will be without nine players picked for the national team squad and during the first division championship after the World Cup they are likely to be concerned more with the Libertadores Cup.

The ball flies past flying Boca Juniors goalkeeper Rodriguez for Velez Sarsfield's goal in the Argentine national championship quarter finals which put the latter through on a 4-3 aggregate.

Flank defenders Saporiti of River Plate (left) and FC Oeste's Garre fighting for the ball — or ballet dancing — in the Argentine national championship final.

IN CHILE, champions Cobreloa played off their pending matches — postponed while they played in the Libertadores Cup in which they lost in the final — but still remained four points behind first division leaders Colo Colo who include in their lead two bonus points gained by winning a pre-season tournament. There are six matches to play. Colo Colo have also just signed Chilean international defender Elias Figueroa who has terminated his contract with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

Universidad Catolica, the team which spent over a million dollars this season to strengthen their playing staff for an all-out championship drive, but are sixth in the first division and 13 points from the top, have engaged Chile's national team coach, Luis-Santibañez. Terms were not revealed, but Santibañez was reported to have received a 500,000 dollars signing-on fee and 10,000 dollars a month — the same amount he gets from the Chilean FA. At the same time the club also engaged the national team's PT coach, Gustavo Ortlieb.

IN PERU, Universitario, one of Lima's most popular clubs which has not won the title since 1974, continues to top the table — now only by one point over provincial club Alfonso Ugarte as they are finding the going tough in the final stages with only four points out of their last five matches.

They do have an easier run-in than other close rivals however with five of their remaining six matches at home. Sporting Cristal, champions over the last two years, however, are finding it tougher only two points from the bottom of the table and relegation. An added blow for the team which had six players in the national squad which qualified for the World Cup is the tendon injury suffered by their international defender Chumpitaz which will keep him out for the rest of the season and much longer.

IN ECUADOR, Guayaquil's Barcelona retained the championship.

They won the three-team final round which they entered with two more bonus points than Nacional and four more than Liga Deportiva Universitaria due to having won both tournaments in the regular season. At press time however the other two had still to decide the vice-championship and entry to the Libertadores Cup together with Barcelona.

IN PARAGUAY, Olimpia won the first division title for the fourth year running, but needed a two-match play off and post-match penalties to do it.

After winning the first phase of the championship earlier in the year, Olimpia shared top spot with Libertad and Sol de America in the second phase.

A win for Olimpia in the play-off would have given them the title outright, but they finished bottom behind Sol de America and Libertad.

This meant a best-of-three clash with Sol de America with each game having to produce a winner. Olimpia won the first match 2-1 while the second ended 1-1 and was won by Olimpia 5-4 on penalties. Both finalists go into the Libertadores Cup.

IN VENEZUELA, Tachira won the Venezuelan professional league title for the second time (first win 1979) in their only four seasons in pro-soccer and will represent the country in next year's Libertadores Cup together with Estudiantes de Merida, runners-up in the four-team final round.

● OTHER outstanding points during the final weeks of the qualifiers: The River-Boca classic ended in a 2-2 draw with Maradona scoring both goals for Boca — the second in injury time from what appeared to be a non-existent penalty "created" by himself after River Plate had been the superior team.

Maradona played some of his best matches of the season for Boca Juniors in the final weeks after he had "walked out" of the national team and finished as second highest scorer (in the qualifying stages) with 11 goals.

Top scorer was Velez Sarsfield's veteran, Carlos Bianchi (a prominent scorer in French soccer — 166 goals — between 1974 and 1979) with 12, taking his career total to 318.

There were plenty of goals (average 2.53) and sendings off — 97, including 14 in one day's 14 games when three goalkeepers were also shown the red card. Loma Negra and San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) lead the way with seven players off each.

ELSEWHERE . . .

IN COLOMBIA, Nacional won the 34-year-old professional championship for the fourth time in a close four-team final round which left doubts about the final outcome until the end of the final day's matches.

Nacional, coached by Argentine Osvaldo Zubeldia — who took small club Estudiantes de La Plata to the Libertadores Cup three times running in his own country — beat America de Cali 1-0 on the last day when their rivals walked off a few minutes before the end as the referee sanctioned a penalty against them.

But all the talk is of unfancied Tolima who beat defending champions Atletico Junior (Barranquilla) 4-3 to take second place and accompany Nacional into the Libertadores Cup. Tolima, under Colombian coach Pedro Nel Ospina, have no outstanding players and used a conservative defensive set-up to take their highest placing. They are generally near the bottom of the table and this time they had the added handicap of having to play their final round home matches away in Bogotá as their stadium in the town of Ibague is under repairs. Tolima were vic-champions once before, in 1957 when the Libertadores Cup had not started and this will be their first entry into the continental competition.

IN URUGUAY, Peñarol, with Fernando Morena, returned from Spain this season, and Ruben Paz, once called the second Maradona, in great scoring form, won the season's first division title three points ahead of last year's champions, Nacional.

Paz finished as league top scorer with 17 goals followed by Morena and Miramar's Carlos Sapuca with 15. The top six clubs are now due to play off in a mini-league for two places in the Libertadores Cup and Nacional may have their former internacional striker Victorino back who has not settled down with Deportivo Cali in Colombia where he went on loan from Nacional this season after some disciplinary problems.

One new face in Menotti's squad

writes Eric Weil

ARGENTINE national team coach Cesar Menotti included nine men of national champions River Plate and only one real newcomer — this season's top first division scorer, Raul Chaparro — in his squad of 25 players to start preparing for the World Cup in Mar del Plata, some 400 km from Buenos Aires, on February 14.

The squad included two players with foreign clubs who will however not be in Mar del Plata by that date — Tottenham Hotspur's Ardiles and Fiorentina's Bertoni, both previous World Cup players — but not Ardiles' team mate, Villa, another 1978 World Cup squad man who was expected to be call up also.

Altogether 11 players of the 1978 World Cup squad are in again including all those who played in the final except winger Ortiz. The 11th is Valencia whose inclusion was in doubt because of poor performances lately, but Menotti has again largely kept faith with players who have done well under him at one time or another.

Apart from River Plate's nine (including junior international defender Gordillo who has played only one full first division match), Talleres Córdoba and Independiente have three players each, Racing Club two and Unión, Rosario Central, Boca Juniors, Estudiantes de La Plata, Newell's Old Boys and Instituto Códoba one each. These players will not be able to turn out for their clubs in the national championship scheduled to start on February 15.

The other noteworthy point is that although Menotti continues to maintain that he will go for attacking soccer, the 25-man squad includes three goalkeepers, nine defenders, seven midfielders and only six forwards of who every one has yet to show his top form.

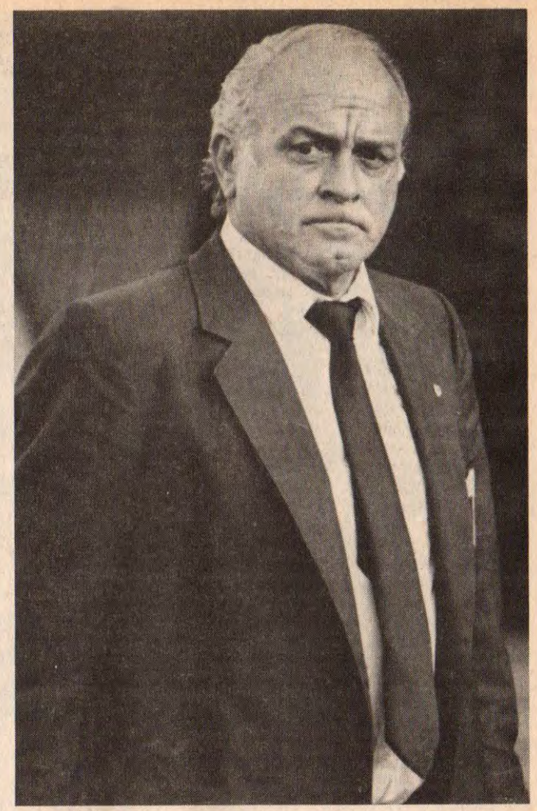
The 25 are (with 1978 World Cup men marked x):

Goal — Fillol (x) (River Plate), Baley (x) (Talleres), Pumpido (Union).

Defenders — Olguin (x) and E. Trossero (Independiente), Olarticochea, Tarantini (x), Gordillo and Passarella (x) (River Plate), Van Tuyne (Racing), L. Galvan (x) (Talleres), Bauza (Rosario Central).

Midfielders — Valencia (x) (Talleres), Bulleri and Gallego (x) (River Plate), Barbas (Racing), Maradona (Boca Juniors), Hernandez (Estudiantes de La Plata), Ardiles (x) (Tottenham, England).

Forwards — Bertoni (x) (Fiorentina, Italy), Diaz and Kempes (x) (River Plate), Santamaría (Newell's Old Boys), Calderon (Independiente;, R. Chaparro (Instituto).



River Plate's Alfredo Di Stefano — the only coach in the history of Argentine soccer to take both River Plate and their deadly rivals Boca Juniors to the championship.

Midfielders — Cueto (x), Velasquez (x), Uribe, Leguia (x), Olaechea, Castillo, Reyna.

Forwards — Barbadillo, La Rosa (x), Oblitas (x), Cubillas (x).

Hector Chumpitaz, the 39-year-old veteran who is captain of the team, broke an achilles tendon in a league match however which makes him doubtful for the World Cup as he is not likely to be fit to start training until the end of April at the earliest.

★ ★ ★

CHILEAN coach, Luis Santibañez, expected to get his players together to start World Cup training in February and also wanted to take them on a European tour to gain experience as they already had all the experience they needed against South American teams.

Last year they played only one European side, Spain, and drew 1-1. A tour this year seemed difficult, but Chile was endeavouring to invite European countries to play in Chile. Chile also wants to stage the 1994 World Cup finals.

PERU STOPS TRANSFERS ABROAD

THE Peruvian FA acted swiftly when it became known that England's Leeds United were interested in midfielder Uribe, one of the outstanding players who helped Peru into the World Cup finals. They banned all transfers abroad until after the tournament in Spain.

Meanwhile Peru's Brazilian coach, Elba de Padua Lima "Tim", picked 18 players to start preparations in January which included matches against Argentina, Brazil and Chile, the other three South American finalists, and a tour to Europe. Tim has left out five of the players from the squad which put Peru into the finals as well as Percy Rojas who is with a Belgian club, but the coach says he will be adding more players to the squad. For now he has picked 11 players who were in the 1978 World Cup squad (marked x). The 18 are:

Goal — Quiroga (x), Acazuzo, Gonzales Ganoza.

Defenders: Duarte (x), Chumpitaz, Diaz (x), Roberto Rojas (x).

COLOMBIA 1986

THE final decision on whether Colombia will stage the 1986 World Cup finals was postponed by parliament until it starts next session in July after members in favour of the tournament had successfully blocked the bill.

That sounds Irish . . . but the reason is that they hope the next parliament will have more members in favour of holding the tournament and vote the necessary funds (which was not the case in the last parliament).

TRANSFERS . . . Brazilian striker **Alberto Silva Lemos "Luisinho"** from America de Rio (Brazil) to Union Deportiva Las Palmas (Spain) for 200,000 dollars . . . Chilean international defender **Elias Figueroa** from Fort Lauderdale Strikers (US) to Colo Colo (Chile).

SIGNING . . . Brazilian international winger Serginho has re-signed with Sao Paulo FC for two years at a reported monthly salary of $6,500. (Zico, Flamengo's international midfielder, is reported to earn $23,700 a month.)

FLAMENGO COLLECT RIO LEAGUE CROWN

IN ADDITION to all Flamengo's other trophies, it was nearly forgotten amid all the celebrations that before flying off to Tokyo they claimed the Rio league crown, writes ERIC WEIL.

The decisive match was the play-off in Maracana against Vasco da Gama, and Flamengo won it 2-1 with goals from Adilio and Nunes inside the first 20 minutes.

Vasco, who replied through Ticao, had earlier beaten Flamengo twice in a week to equal their points total. At least in Roberto Dinamita they had the year's top scorer in Brazil. He totalled 62 goals, followed by Zico (Flamengo) 59, Mendonca (Guarani) 55 and Nunes (Flamengo) 48.

Flamengo's problems in their earlier duels with Vasco were put down largely to the concurrent pressures of the tough Libertadores final against Cobreloa. After Flamengo's Cup win they returned to lose 2-0 to Vasco and star forward Zico also took a share of the blame for missing chances.

A few weeks earlier Flamengo had beaten Fluminense 3-1 in the Rio de Janeiro classic in front of 110,000 fans and Zico did not score any goals either, but he had scored five in Flamengo's two previous league games and continued as their leading scorer with 24 in league games.

Brazilian international Oscar.

Luckless

Earlier play in the Rio (Carioca) State League had been held up after Charles Borer, president of the luckless Botafogo club, told a press conference that he had been invited to participate in a "scheme" in which referees fixed matches for payment. He mentioned a radio sports commentator and a referee who had approached him with the offer, even giving a scale of payments, between 2,000 and 6,000 dollars depending on the importance of the match. Borer also claimed he had a recording or the conversations, but both the persons mentioned denied the accusations.

As a result some 100 referees who officiated in state league matches went on strike and the league countered by dismissing them and bringing in referees from other states to officiate in matches at double the normal pay.

Sao Paulo FC, half of whose team play for Brazil, won the Sao Paulo State League, but not without some trouble. They tied top place with Guarani in their quarter-final group and under existing rules were due to go through on better results obtained in previous matches, but the championship was almost suspended by a legal battle as Guarani's lawyers protested that the rule interpretation was wrong.

In the semi-finals, they were drawn to face newly-promoted Sao José from Dos Campos who had been under coach "Tim" before he moved on to take Peru into the World Cup finals. He had collected together a team of veteran cast-offs from other clubs — average age 29 — at a cost of only around 200,000 dollars.

Compare this with the 1,400 million dollars spent on players by another Sao Paulo State League club, Corinthians, who failed to make the final rounds. Modest Sao Jose's wage bill for the entire team is also about the same as Zico's earnings with Flamengo. Sao José however beat Sao Paulo's star-studded line-up 1-0 in the semi-final's first leg before losing the second 3-2 and again going out on the rule taking into account previous results as the aggregate was tied 3-3.

The first leg 1-0 defeat had an unfortunate epilogue. Sao Paulo's international winger, Mario Sergio, apparently in a nervous fit after this surprise result, shot with his revolver at a group of rival fans from the window of the team bus.

No one was hurt, but the incident could cost him a place in the national team squad as coach Tele Santana, a strict disciplinarian, has excluded players for lesser conduct offences in the past.

Sao Paulo went on to win the title with a 1-1 draw in the first leg and a 2-0 win in the second against Ponte Preta in the final.

In other states, Atletico Mineiro, the Brazilian vice-champion, won the Minas Gerais state league while their eternal rivals, Cruzeiro, were second . . . In Porto Alegre, Internacional drew 1-1 with classic rivals Gremio to win the Rio Grande do Sul "Gaucho" title.

Classified Results

UEFA CUP
Third round, second legs

Neuchatel-Xamax 1 (Andrey 28)
Sporting Lisbon 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,118. **Ref:** Dochev (Bul).
Neuchatel 1-0 on aggregate

Neuchatel: Engel — Hasler, Trinchero, Forestier, Bianchi — Perret (De Coulon 85), Kupper, Andrey — Pellegrini, Lüthi (Sarrasin 89), Givens.

Sporting: Meszaros — Ademar, Xavier, Eurico, Inacio (Barao 39) — Virgilio, Oliveira, Marinho, Nogueria — Manuel Fernandes, Freire (Mario Jorge 63).

Hajduk Split 4 (Guadelj 7 pen, 69, 89, Primorac 20)
Valencia 1 (Saura 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Linemayr (Aus)
Valencia 6-5 on aggregate

Hajduk: Pudar — Beric, Primorac, Rozic, Zoran Vujovic — Gudelj, Sliskovic (Adamovic 66), Salov — Pesic (Vulic 56), Petrov, Zlatko Vujovic.

Valencia: Sempere — Botubot, Castellanos, Tendillo, Cervero — Cesar, Solsona, Subirats — Saura, Arnesen, Pablo (Felman 72).

Real Madrid 0
Rapid Vienna 0
Att: 70,000. **Ref:** Baumann (Swz).
Madrid 1-0 on aggregate

Madrid: Agutsin — San Jose, Benito, Gallego, Cortes — Stielike, Del Bosque (Garcia Hernandez 64), Camacho — Ito, Pineda (Garcia Navajas 89), Isidro.

Rapid: Feurer — Krauss, Weber, Garger, Pregesbauer — Kleinast, Panenka, Hickersberger (Persidis 76), Sinchenko (Hofman 71) — Krankl, Keglevits.

Dundee Utd 5 (Bannon 25, Narey 32, Hegarty 35, Milne 39, 69)
Winterslag 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 16,232. **Ref:** Christov (Cz)
Dundee Utd 5-0 on aggregate

Dundee Utd: McAlpine — Holt, Malpas, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock, Dodds.

Winterslag: De Bruyne — Houben, Billen, Vitalen, Lambrichts, Albertsen, Thys, P. Denier, Berger, Weiss, M. Denier.

Hamburg 3 (Hrubesch 33, Memering 59 pen, Jakobs 67)
Aberdeen 1 (McGhee 79)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Jushka (R.)
Hamburg 5-4 on aggregate

Hamburg: Stein — Wehmeyer, Jakobs, Beckenbauer, Groh — Von Heesen, Memering, Magath — Milewski, Hrubesch, Bastrup.

Aberdeen: Leighton — Kennedy, Watson, Miller, McMaster — MeLeish, Strachan (Bell 75), Cooper, Simpson — Black, Hewitt.

Feyenoord 1 (Nielsen 28)
Radnicki Nis 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,500. **Ref:** Fredriksson (Swe)
Radnicki 2-1 on aggregate

Feyenoord: Hiele — Wiunstekers, Nielsen, Stafleu, Troost — Van Til (Brand 68), Van Hanegem, Van Deinsen — Budding, Bouwens (Kaczor 21), Vermeulen.

Radnicki: Milenkovic — Gavrilovic, Vojnovic, Stoijkovic, Obradovic — Dordevic (Halilovic 46), Bojovic, Radosnivlevic — Drizic, Nikolic, Aleksuc (Savic 62).

Kaiserslautern 4 (Hofeditz 45, Briegel 62, Funkel 74, Eilenfeldt 81)
Lokeren 1 (Gudjohnsson 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,355. **Ref:** Igna (Rum)
Kaiserslautern 4-2 on aggregate

Kaiserslautern: Reichel — Wolf, Eigendorf, Neues, Melzer — Briegel, Bongartz (Brummer 83), Eilenfeldt — Geye, Funkel, Hofeditz (Brehme 71).

Lokeren: Hoogenboom — Dobias (Van Cauter 69), Dalving (Ingels 41), De Schrijver, Verbruggen — Snelders, Lato, Verheyen, Mommens — Gudjohnsson, Elkjaer-Larsen.

Dinamo Bucharest 0
IFK Goteborg 1 (Nilsson 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Mulder (Hol)
IFK 4-1 on aggregate

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW (March 3 and 17)

Champions' Cup: Kiev v Aston Villa, Liverpool (holders) v CSKA Sofia, Un. Craiova v Bayern Munich, Anderlecht v Red Star Belgrade.

Cup-winners' Cup: Tottenham v Eintracht Frankfurt, Legia Warsaw v Tbilisi (holders), Stardard Leige v Porto, Lokomotiv Leipzig v Barcelona.

UEFA Cup: Real Madrid v Kaiserslautern, Valencia v IFK Goteborg, Hamburg v Neuchatel Xamax, Dundee Utd v Radnicki Nis.

AFRICAN CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Champions' Cup — 1st round: El Ahly (Eg) bt Abaluya (Ken) 3-1, 1-1 — N. Breweries (Ug) bt USCA (Cent) 2-1, w/o — JE Tizi-Ouzou (Alg) bt Tripoli Mun. (Lib) 0-0, 2-1 — Simba (Tan) w/o v Horsed (Som) — Nchanga (Zam) bt M. Highlanders (Swa) 1-0, 4-0 — Costa do Sol (Mozam) bt MMM (Mad) 4-2, 2-0 — Dynamo (Zim) bt Linare (Lesotho) 5-0, 1-1 — Shooting Stars (Nig) bt T. Rollers (Bots) 7-1, 0-2 — AS Kaloum (Guin) bt Stars (Gam) 2-1, 1-0 — AS Kotoko (Gh) bt Inv. E (Lib) 3-0, 1-1 — Benfica (G. Bis) w/o v Agaza (Togo) — US Mbila Nzambi (Gab) bt Real Mali 1-0, 0-1, pens — Vita Club (Zai) bt Pr. da Agosto (Ang) 2-1, 1-1 — Silures (UV) bt E. E. Lions (SL) 1-0, 1-1 — ASEG (IC) bt SEIB (sen) 1-2, 2-1, pens.

2nd rnd: El Ahly bt Nile Breweries 1-2, 5-0 — JET bt Horsed 1-1, 3-1 — Nchanga Rangers bt Costa do Sol 1-1, 3-1 — Dynamo bt Shooting Stars 2-1, 3-0 — AS Kaloum bt Ashanti Kotoko 0-1, 3-1 — US Mbila Nzambi bt Agaza 2-0, 0-1 — Vita Club bt Silures 1-0, 3-3 — ASEG bt Canon Yaounde (holders) 3-1, 0.0.

Quarter finals: Vita Club bt Nchanga Rangers 4-1, 0-2 — AS Kaloum bt ASEG 2-1, 2-1 — El Ahly bt US Mbila Nzambi 1-1, 3-0 — JET bt Dynamo 3-0, 2-2.

Semi-finals: JET w/o v El Ahly — Vita Club 1-0, 0-0 v Kaloum.

Final: JE Tizi-Ouzou bt Vita Club 4-0, 1-0.

****Appropriate that in the year Algeria first qualified for the World Cup finals, their club champions should win the African Cup. JET – the initials stand for Jeunesse Electronique de Tizi-Ouzou – were far too good for a transitionary Vita Club. Outstanding for JET was skipper Ali Fergani, who also scored the only goal in a second leg they would have won more easily but for the acrobatics of Zaire goalkeeper Tubilandu.*

Past winners: 1965 Oryx Douala. 1966 Stade Abidjan. 1967 TP Engelbert Lubumbashi. 1968 TP Engelbert. 1969 Ismaily Alexandria. 1970 Ashanti Kotoko Kumassi. 1971 Canon Yaounde. 1972 Hafia Conakry. 1973 Vita Kinshasa. 1974 CARA Brazzaville. 1975 Hafia. 1976 Mouloudia Algiers. 1977 Hafia. 1978 Canon. 1979 Union Douala. 1980 Canon. 1981 JET Tizi-Ouzou.

1982 prelim, rnd draw (Feb 12/13/14 and 26/27/28): Vital (Bur) v Rayons Sports (Rwanda) — Peacemakers (Swa) v Maseru Brothers (Les) — At. Malabo (Ec. G) v Sp. Moura (Cent) — AS Police (Maur) v Adjidjas (Benoi). 1st rnd draw (April 9/10/11 and 23/24/25): Zambian champions v Vital or Rayons — AC Somasud (Mad) v Peacemakers or Maseru — FC Lupopo (Zaire) v Malabo or Moura — Dynamos (Zim) v Defence Force Eleven (Bots) — AS Police or Adjidjas v Stella (IC) — RS Kouba (Alg) v KAC Kenitra (Mor) — El Hilal (Sud) v JET (Alg, holders) — Kampala City Council (Ug)v FC Leopards (Ken) — Public Work (Som) v Egyptian entry (El Ahly suspended for withdrawing from 1981 semi-finals owing to death of Pres. Sadat) — Textil Oungoe (Moz) v Young Africans (Tan) — Invincible Eleven (Lib) v Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam) — Semassi Sokode (Togo) v Ashanti Kotoko (Gh) — Primeiro da Agosto (Ang) v Enugu Rangers (Nig) — AS Kaloum (Guin) v Real Republicains (SL) — US Mbila Nzambi (Gab) v US Goree (Sen) — Etoile de Congo v Read Mali.

1981 Cup-winners' Cup — Semi-finals: Union Douala (Cameroon) bt Sekondi Hasaacas (Ghana) 2-1, 2-3 — Stationery Stores (Nigeria) bt Djoliba (Mali) 0-0, 1-0. **Final:** Union Douala bt Stationery Stores 0-0, 2-1.

****Two goals from striker Ekoule brought Douala success in a year which also saw the Cameroon national team qualify for the World Cup finals. In their African CWC campaign Union lost only one of ten games, scoring 29 goals and conceding only eight.*

Past winners: 1975 Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam). 1976 Shooting Stars Ibadan. 1977 Rangers Enugu. 1978 Horoya Conakry. 1979 Canon Yaounde. 1980 Tout Puissant Mazembe (Lubumbashi). 1981 Union Douala.

DECEMBER INTERNATIONALS
DECEMBER 5
Paris — World Cup Euro group 2

France 4 (Rocheteau 24, Lacombe 26, 83, Genghini 87)
Cyprus 0
HT: 2-0, **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Borg (Malta)

France: Castaneda — Janvion, Lopez, Tresor, Bossis — Tigana, Giresse, Genghini — Rocheteau, Lacombe, Six (Bellone 63).

Cyprus: Stylianou — C. Mamiliotis, Erotokritou, Lysandrou, Kezos — Demetriou, N. Pantzarias, Theophanous, Ylangoudakis, Mavroudis — Vrahimis.

France gained their now predictable place in the finals in Spain with this victory taking them into second place in the European group two ahead of the Republic of Ireland on goal difference. There were early problems for the French however, apart from the injury which robbed them of the services of Michel Platini. In the fourth minute the Parc des Princes floodlights failed. After a brief halt play was resumed under partial lighting — despite protests from the Cypriots — and full lights returned in the 17th minute.

That was just what the French needed to show them the way to goal. Seven minutes later Dominique Rocheteau scored after a free kick, then Bernard Lacombe headed in No. 2. It wasn't then until the final seven minutes that the brave but weary Cypriots fell apart. In the 83rd minute goalkeeper Stylianou could only parry a Rocheteau shot and Lacombe pushed in the rebound. Then Bernard Genghini headed in a long cross from Bruno Bellone for No. 4. France had made it!

Naples — WC Euro gp 5
Italy 1 (Collovati 6)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Chonchev (Bul).

Italy: Zoff —Gentile, Collovati, Scirea, Cabrini — Oriali, Tardelli, Marocchino, Dossena — Pruzzo, Graziani.

Luxembourg: Moes — Meunier, Bossi, Rohmann, Clemens — Weiss, Wagner (Schreiner 88), Dresch, Langers — Reiter (Gires 73), Di Domenico.

Italy were awful. As on many occasions in the past, when confronted with minnow opponents, they showed themselves totally incapable of opening up the match and running in the goals their ability should earn. And it wasn't enough to blame the injury absences of Robert Bettega and Co.

Italy had the gift of a wonderful start with Milan stopper Fulvio Collovati — who got married a couple of days later — headed a sixth-minute goal. But though they brought the best out of Jeannot Moes in the Luxembourg goal, they lacked bite in attack despite the debut of Jeventus' latest hopeful, Domenico Marocchino. A predictable storm broke over the head of manager Enzo Bearzot after such a disappointing performance. But, as he pointed out, Italy were already through to the finals before the match, so there was little incentive.

DECEMBER 16

Valencia
Spain 2 (Satrustegui 7, 86)
Belgium 0
HT: 1-0, **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Roth (WG)

Spain: Arconada — Camacho, Tendillo, Alesanco, Gordillo — Victor, Alonso, Zamora — Saura, Satrustegui, Quini.

Belgium: Pfaff — Gerets (Mariman 42, M. Millecamps 64), L. Millecamps, Meeuws, Baecke — Van Moer, Vandereycken, Vercauteren — Czerniatynski (Geurts 63), Vandenbergh, Ceulemans.

The Tango-Espana football — around 4,000 of which will be used for training and matches during the World Cup finals — made its debut in this match. But of far greater interest to Spain fans was the reappearance, after more than a year's absence, of Barcelona spearhead Quini, the league's top scorer.

Quini, whose claims had been vociferously broadcast by the Catalan media, would hardly dare to call this one of his better games. But at least his strength and selfless running provided welcome support in attack for Jesus Satrustegui, who grabbed the two goals.

The first followed a free kick on the right by Real Sociedad team-mate Jesus Zamora, the second came when the centre forward followed up a rebound — Pfaff having only blocked a shot from Victor. But already by then the Spanish fans were shouting: "Off, off," in protest at an inconsistent performance.

Belgium manager Guy Thys though the result unfair. He said: "We had more of the game. It was the defence which really won it for Spain."

Haskovo (Bul)
Bulgaria 5 (Zdravkov 16 pen, 74, Ditto og 21, Yonchev 23, 48)
Portugal 2 (Oliveira 11, 88)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 30,000.

Bulgaria: Velinov (Donev 81) — Nikolov (Tsvetanov 81), Balevski, Blagnev, Miliev — Zdravkov, Yonchev (Toppouzakov 60), Spassov (Subotinov 54) — Vulchev, Marjov (Sadukov 37), Mladenov.

Portugal: Bento — Gabriel, Simoes (Savieri 46), Dito, Pereira (Alvaro 46) — Sheu (Jacques 46), Edmar, Romeu — Manuel Fernandes (Nene 76), Oliveira, Costa.

Probably the last match in the reign of Juca as mamager of Portugal. Ex-Benfica boss John Mortimore, one-time Chelsea centre-half, is narrow favourite to take over early in the new year, though some federation officials have other ideas.

Eliminated from the World Cup and with the threat of the income tax authorities turning the game inside out, the visitors rarely looked ready to provide a youthful, experimental Bulgaria with much of a test. Oliveira did put them ahead after a defensive misunderstanding, but that goal was soon wiped out — Zdravkov converting the penalty after Yonchev was tripped.

An own goal from Dito and a long-range effort from Yonchev saw Bulgaria into a 3-1 half-time lead and Yonchev scored the fourth soon after the break, after collecting a long through pass from Yonchev. Yonchev's substitute, Tappouzakov, created the fifth goal for Zdravkov, with Oliveira scoring a second for Portugal.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Group 2 — December 5 (Limassol)

Cyprus 2, France 1 (France qual. for quater-finals).
Group 3 — Nov 28 (Trenchin): Czechoslovakia 0, Russia 0 (Russia qual. for quarter finals).

Quarter-final draw (before April 12): France-Russia, Spain-West Germany, Poland-England, Italy-Scotland. **Semi-finals:** France or Russia v Spain or West Germany; Poland or England v Italy or Scotland.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS — Nov 29 (Bangkok): Poland B 2, China 0. **Dec 16** (Lecce): Italy Div. 2 U21 1 (Traini 1), Spain U21 1 (Julio 47).

BALKAN CUP FINAL — Velez Mostar (Yug) bt Trakia Plovdiv (Bul) 6-5, 6-2 (12-7 on agg).

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Dec 9 — Universidad Catolica (Chile) 0 Universitario (Peru) 0; **Dec 18** — Universitario (Peru) 1 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 0; **Dec 20** — Barcelona (Ecuador) 3 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 2; **Dec 22** — Alianza Lima (Peru) 1 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 2.

WORLD CUP
Asia/Oceania play-off group

Results: China 0, New Zealand 0 — New Zealand 1, China 0 — New Zealand 1, Kuwait 2 — China 3, Kuwait 0 — Saudi Arabia 0, Kuwait 1 — China 4, Saudi Arabia 2 (in Kuala Lumpur) — Saudi Arabia 0, China 2 (in Kuala Lumpur) — New Zealand 2, China 2 (in Kuala Lumpur) — New Zealand 2, Saudi Arabia 2 — Kuwait 2, Saudi Arabia 0 — Kuwait 2, New Zealand 2 — Saudi Arabia 0, New Zealand 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	6	4	1	1	8	6	9
New Zealand	6	2	3	1	11	6	7
China	6	3	1	2	9	4	7
S. Arabia	6	0	1	5	4	16	1

Singapore — play-off

New Zealand 2 (Wooddin 24, Rufer 47)
China 1 (Huang Xiangdong 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Romualdo Arppi Filho (Brz)

New Zealand: Wilson — Dodds, Herbert, Almond, Elrick — Boath (Simonson), Sumner, Cole — G. Turner, Rufer (Adan), Wooddin.

China: Li Fusheng — Cai Jinbiao, Chi Shangbin, Lin Luofeng, Huang Xiangdong — Zang Cailing, Zuo Shusheng (Yang Yumin), Gu Guangmin (Liu Chender) — Rong Zhihang, Chen Xurong, Wu Yuhua.

League Tables

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	17	11	2	4	31	21	35
Man. City	21	10	5	6	30	23	35
Man. Utd	19	9	6	4	29	16	33
Southampton	19	10	3	6	35	28	33
Swansea	20	10	3	7	31	31	33
Nottm. Forest	19	9	5	5	25	24	32
Tottenham	17	9	2	6	26	19	29
Everton	20	8	5	7	28	26	29
Liverpool	18	7	6	5	27	19	27
Brighton	19	6	9	4	24	19	27
Arsenal	16	8	3	5	15	12	27
West Ham	17	6	8	3	33	25	26
WBA	18	6	6	6	23	19	24
Aston Villa	19	5	7	7	23	23	22
Coventry	20	6	4	10	29	32	22
Stoke	19	6	3	10	24	29	21
Leeds	18	5	5	8	18	32	20
Wolves	18	5	4	9	12	25	19
Birmingham	18	4	6	8	26	28	18
Notts C.	17	4	5	8	24	39	17
Sunderland	19	3	5	11	16	33	14
Middlesbrough	18	2	6	10	16	30	12

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	15	10	4	1	29	12	24
Doxa	15	7	6	2	22	14	20
PAOK	15	7	5	3	25	12	19
AEK	15	7	5	3	18	14	19
Olympiakos	15	6	7	2	14	11	19
Aris	15	8	2	5	29	14	18
Panionios	15	6	4	5	18	12	16
Kastoria	15	6	4	5	18	14	16
Heraklis	15	6	4	5	15	18	16
Rhodes	15	5	5	5	13	19	15
Apollon	15	4	6	5	13	17	14
Yannina	15	5	3	7	15	22	13
Larissa	15	4	4	7	20	21	12
Ethnikos	15	4	4	7	11	18	12
OF Crête	15	4	3	8	16	20	11
Serres	15	3	5	7	11	18	11
Kavalla	15	1	6	8	8	23	8
Corinth	15	3	1	11	11	26	7

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina	14	9	3	2	20	11	21
Juventus	14	8	3	3	17	6	19
AS Roma	13	7	4	2	18	10	18
Inter	14	6	6	2	18	13	18
Napoli	14	4	8	2	13	8	16
Avellino	14	5	6	3	9	5	16
Catanzaro	13	5	5	3	14	9	15
Ascoli	14	3	7	4	7	6	13
Cagliari	14	3	6	5	11	13	12
Genoa	14	2	8	4	9	11	12
Udinese	14	4	4	6	15	18	12
Torino	14	3	5	6	11	14	11
Cesena	14	2	7	5	12	23	11
Bologna	14	1	8	5	11	18	10
Milan AC	14	2	6	6	5	12	10
Como	14	1	6	7	10	23	8

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sakaryaspor	11	7	3	1	14	3	17
Fenerbahçe	11	6	3	2	19	11	15
A Demirspor	11	6	3	2	13	5	15
Trabzonspor	11	4	5	2	10	5	13
Breşiktaş	11	4	5	2	12	8	13
Galatasaray	11	5	3	3	9	6	13
Boluspor	11	3	7	2	11	9	13
Zonguidakspor	12	5	3	3	9	9	13
Ankaragücü	11	5	2	4	12	12	12
Adanaspor	11	3	5	3	8	8	11
Altay	11	3	4	4	13	11	10
Kocalispor	11	3	4	5	10	8	10
Bursaspor	12	3	4	5	8	11	10
Gaziantepspor	11	2	4	5	11	21	8
Göztepe	11	2	3	6	9	20	7
Diyarbakirspor	12	2	2	8	7	17	6
Eskişehirspor	12	2	2	8	3	15	6

Looking beyond Spain

● *Continued from page 21*

perform creditably, he might stay, otherwise Italy will have a different manager for this competition.

The Czechs are playing well at the moment, they have a good, solid look about them, they should have been seeded for this tournament. Rumania took three points off England in the World Cup, then they went to pieces, and their most able coach, Stefan Kovacs, was sacked. Without him, they have a difficult task in this strong group, but they can cause a few surprises.

The same sentiments apply to Sweden, regular World Cup qualifiers until Spain '82, but unlikely to be satisfied with a lowly place on the international ranking list.

GROUP 6 — *West Germany, Austria, N. Ireland, Turkey, Albania.* Holders of the title, W. Germany, must be strong favourites here, they have an excellent record in this competition. Schuster might be persuaded to join the squad, but even without him, they have a nucleus of a team (Schumacher, Kaltz, Breitner, Rummenigge), which on paper, looks formidable. Austria, with Krankl back and N. Ireland are the main challengers, but it is difficult to see either of them stopping the Germans.

GROUP 7 — *Spain, Holland, Rep. of Ireland, Iceland, Malta.* Another interesting group with three equally well-noted candidates for the top spot. I have a high regard for Zamora and Arconada in the Spanish team, but I do not think that their forward-line is good enough for winning major honours.

The young Holland side must come good one day, and in this company, they might show the results of the patient development of the last couple of years. Ireland, with Brady and Stapleton, collected 10 points in the World Cup, and were unlucky not to qualify — here is another chance to make an impact on the international scene. Iceland foiled Wales last time, they will take a few points off the main challengers again.

Malta? On their own ground they too must be taken seriously. I know, I saw their match against E. Germany in Valetta in the World Cup . . . To sum it up, it's a good draw, and it should be a fascinating tournament. The "Mundial" is not the only competition in football, and when it is over, we in Europe still have something to look forward to . . .

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LEAGUE TABLES

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA: National Championship (final standings of qualifying stage — top two of each section qualify for quarter-finals)

Section A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosario Central	14	7	4	3	32	20	18
Gimnasia y Esg. Jujuy	14	6	4	4	19	16	16
Argentinos Juniors	14	4	7	3	15	15	15
Huracán Buenos Aires	14	5	4	5	20	20	14
Belgrano Córdoba	14	5	4	5	16	16	14
Gimnasia y Esg. Mendoza	14	4	6	4	15	16	14
Racing Club (Avellaneda)	14	2	6	6	12	22	10
Section B							
FC Oeste	14	10	2	2	24	11	22
River Plate	14	7	5	2	26	12	19
Loma Negra	14	7	5	2	15	10	19
Talleres Córdoba	14	2	6	6	9	16	10
Guarani Posadas	14	3	4	7	16	24	10
San Martin Tucuman	14	3	3	8	17	24	9
Sarmiento Junin	14	3	3	8	10	20	9
Section C							
Independiente	14	9	3	2	29	10	21
Velez Sarsfield	14	8	1	5	26	14	17
Racing Córdoba(x)	14	8	3	3	27	16	15
Newell's Old Boys	14	4	4	6	23	24	12
Platense	14	3	6	5	7	15	12
Gimnasia y Tiro Salta	14	1	5	8	9	26	7
Huracán San Rafael	14	1	5	8	14	34	7
Section D							
Boca Juniors	14	8	3	3	28	12	19
Instituto Cordoba	14	6	4	4	18	14	16
Estudiantes La Plata	14	5	6	3	16	13	16
San Lorenzo de Almagro	14	4	6	4	14	15	14
Atletico Tucuman	14	6	2	6	14	17	14
Unión Santa Fe	14	2	6	6	13	15	10
San Lorenzo Mar del Plata	14	3	3	8	13	30	9

ARGENTINE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: final rounds (home and away)

Quarter-finals: Rosario Central 1 River Plate 2; River 0 Central 0 (river won 2-1 on aggregate); Instituto Córdoba 1 Independiente 2; Independiente 0 Instituto 0 (independiente won 2-1 on aggregate); Boca Juniors 2 Velez Sarsfield 1; Velez Sarsfield 3 Boca Juniors 1 (Velez won 4-3 on aggregate); FC Oeste beat Gimnasia y Esgrima Jujuy 1-0 in both legs, won 2-0 on aggregate. *Semi-finals:* Independiente 1 River Plate 1; River Plate 0 Independiente 0 (aggregate 1-1, River won on away goal); Velez Sarsfield 1 FC Oeste 2; FC Oeste 1 Velez 1 (FC Oeste won 3-2 on aggregate). *Final:* River Plate beat FC Oeste 1-0 in both legs, won 2-0 on aggregate.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

1967 — Independiente; 1968 — Velez Sarsfield; 1969/70 — Boca Juniors; 1971 — Rosario Central; 1972 — San Lorenzo; 1973 — Rosario Central; 1974 — San Lorenzo; 1975 — River Plate; 1976 — Boca Juniors; 1977/78 — Independiente; 1979 — River Plate; 1980 — Rosario Central; 1981 — River Plate.

URUGUAY: First Division (final standings after 28 games)

1) Peñarol 44 pts; 2) Nacional 41; 3) Wanderers 35; 4) Bella Vista 32; 5) River Plate 31; 6) Defensor, Miramar 30; 8) Huracan Buceo 28; 9) Cerro 25; 10) Rampla Juniors, Liverpool 23; 12) Danubio, Progreso 21; 14) Sud America 20; 15) Fenix 16.

COLOMBIA: Professional Championship final round (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional Medellin	6	3	2	1	7	6	8
Tolima	6	2	2	2	10	9	6
Atletico Junior (Barranquilla)	6	1	3	2	10	10	5
America (Cali)	6	1	3	2	6	8	5

COLOMBIAN PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1948 — Independiente Santa Fe; 1949 — Millionarios; 1950 — Caldas; 1951/2/3 — Millionarios; 1954 — Nacional; 1955 — Medellin; 1956 — Quindio; 1957 — Medellin; 1958 — Independiente Santa Fe; 1959 — Millionarios; 1960 — Independiente Santa Fe; 1961/2/3/4 — Millionarios; 1965 — Deportivo Cali; 1966 — Independiente Sante Fe; 1967 — Deportivo Cali; 1968 — Union Magdalena; 1969/70 — Deportivo Cali; 1971 — Independiente Santa Fe; 1972 — Millionarios; 1973 — Nacional; 1974 — Deportivo Cali; 1975 — Independiente Santa Fe; 1976 — Nacional; 1977 — Atletico Junior Barranquilla; 1978 — Millionarios; 1979 — America Cali; 1980 — Atletico Junior Barranquilla; 1981 — Nacional.

(Winners: Millionarios 11, Independiente Santa Fe 6, Deportivo Cali 5, Nacional 4, Medellin and Atletico Junior 2, Caldas, Quindio, Union Magdalena and America 1).

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	24	17	5	2	56	18	41(2)
Cobreloa	24	16	5	3	44	17	37
Universidad de Chile	24	12	8	4	37	26	32
Union Española	24	11	7	6	38	23	30(1)
Universidad Catolica	24	10	6	8	40	28	26
Audax Italiano	24	8	9	7	30	28	26(1)
Magallanes	24	9	7	8	43	32	25
Naval	24	7	10	7	31	30	24
Iquique	24	8	6	10	36	42	22
O'Higgins	24	7	8	9	36	37	22
Palestino	24	5	10	9	24	28	20
La Serena	24	6	7	11	30	44	19
Concepción	24	5	9	10	27	35	19
San Luis	24	5	8	11	26	42	18
Everton	24	4	9	11	28	49	18(1)
Nublense	24	2	6	16	12	49	10

(Bonus points obtained as winner (Colo Colo) and semi-finalists of pre-season tournament in brackets)

PERU: Professional Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	24	13	6	5	37	24	32
Alfonso Ugarte	24	12	7	5	35	25	31
Melgar	24	11	7	6	28	27	29
Alianza Lima	24	12	3	9	39	27	27
Sport Boys	24	8	10	6	37	27	26
Atletico Chalaco	24	7	11	6	27	23	25
Deportivo Junin	24	9	6	9	31	34	24
Colegio Nac. Iquitos	24	9	6	9	29	29	24
Coronel Bolognesi	24	9	5	10	28	21	23
Leon de Huanuco	24	9	5	8	24	29	23
Juan Aurich	24	5	12	7	16	21	22
Deportivo Municipal	24	7	8	9	27	32	22
Sporting Cristal	24	5	10	9	22	30	20
Torino	24	8	3	13	27	37	19
Asoc. Dep. Tarma	24	7	5	12	21	27	19
Union Huaral	24	5	8	11	20	37	18

ECUADOR: Professional Championship final round (after 2 games — 2 to go)

1) Barcelona (6) 10 pts; 2) Nacional (4) 7; 3) Liga Deportiva Universitaria (2) 5. (Bonus points carried over from regular season championships in brackets).

PARAGUAY: First Division (second phase, first place play-off):

1) Sol de America 4 pts; 2) Libertad 2; 3) Olimpia 0. (Olimpia, first phase champion, beat Sol de America in two-match series for Paraguayan First Division title.)

MEXICO: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Puebla	14	7	3	4	24	18	17
America	14	6	3	5	23	14	15
Univ. Autonoma Mexico	14	4	6	4	22	23	14
Univ. Nuevo Leon	14	5	3	6	16	16	13
Atlas	14	5	3	6	14	19	13
Group 2							
Atletico Potosino	14	7	5	2	26	19	19
Neza	14	4	7	3	23	18	15
Univ. de Guadalajara	14	5	4	5	15	11	14
Cruz Azul	14	4	5	5	15	15	13
Leon	14	2	4	8	13	27	8
Group 3							
Zacatepec	14	6	7	1	20	10	19
Morelia	14	4	3	7	17	21	11
Atletico Español	14	3	4	7	18	23	10
Guadalajara	14	3	4	7	14	23	10
Tampico	14	3	4	9	17	27	10
Group 4							
Atlante	14	10	2	2	30	15	22
Campesinos	14	6	6	2	19	13	18
Monterrey	14	7	2	5	23	27	16
Toluca	14	3	8	3	19	20	14
Univ. Autonoma Guadalajara	14	2	7	5	15	22	11

VENEZUELA: Professional League – semi-final round

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes de Merida	6	3	2	1	11	7	8
Portuguesa	6	2	3	1	5	3	7
Lara	6	2	2	2	10	6	6
Zamora	6	0	3	3	3	13	3
Group B							
Tachira	5	3	2	0	4	1	8
Valencia	5	2	3	0	3	1	7
Univ. de los Andes	5	1	2	2	2	3	4
Galicia	5	0	1	4	1	5	1
Final round (final)							
Tachira	6	4	1	1	8	3	9
Estudiantes	6	3	0	3	4	4	6
Valencia	6	2	2	2	5	6	6
Portuguesa	6	1	1	3	2	6	3

DENMARK (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hvidovre IF	30	15	10	5	42	25	40
Lyngby BK	30	16	7	7	54	34	39
Naestved IF	30	13	12	5	51	36	38
AGF, Aarhus	30	14	10	6	47	33	38
Esbjerg fBK	30	13	10	7	46	38	36
OB, Odense	30	13	8	9	53	40	34
KB, Copenhagen	30	13	6	11	62	58	32
B 1901, Nykøbing	30	13	6	11	51	50	32
Vejle BK	30	7	15	8	51	48	29
Köge BK	30	9	11	10	38	45	29
B 93, Copenhagen	30	9	10	11	39	48	28
Ikast fSK	30	10	6	14	46	49	26
B 1903, Copenhagen	30	5	13	12	28	39	23
Kastrup BK	30	6	11	13	30	42	23
Herfölge BK	30	6	6	18	33	57	18
Viborg FF	30	5	5	20	33	62	15

Promoted: Bröndbyernes IF, B 1909 (Odense) and Kolding IF.

NORWAY (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vålerengens IF, Oslo	22	9	11	2	44	27	29
Vikings FA, Stavanger	22	11	6	5	32	30	28
Rosenborg, BK, Trondheim	22	9	8	5	35	24	26
Fredrikstad FK	22	9	7	6	45	26	25
Moss FK	22	8	6	8	27	27	24
Hamarkameratene, Hamar	22	8	6	8	25	21	22
Lillestrøm SK	22	6	10	6	26	25	22
IK Start, Kristiansand	22	8	5	9	36	38	21
Bryne IL	22	6	9	7	29	34	21
SK Brann, Bergen x)	22	5	7	10	26	40	17
SK Haugar, Haugesund	22	2	12	8	20	38	16
SoFK Lyn, Oslo	22	4	5	13	22	37	13

x) Only two teams are relegated directly. The third from bottom plays off with the two second-placed teams of the two second divisions. In this case Brann lost the play-off to Molde FK, who go up together with the winners of the two second divisions: Mjøndalen IF and Sogndal IL.

HONG KONG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seiko	11	9	2	0	28	7	20
Bulova	11	4	6	1	20	9	14
Happy Valley	10	5	4	1	17	10	14
Sea Bee	10	3	4	3	14	14	10
Caroline Hill	10	3	4	4	15	20	10
Rangers	8	3	2	3	10	11	8
South China	10	2	4	4	10	13	8
Eastern	8	3	1	4	10	12	7
Tsuen Wan	10	2	3	5	7	14	7
Po Chai	11	2	3	6	9	17	7
Tung Sing	10	2	1	7	11	24	5

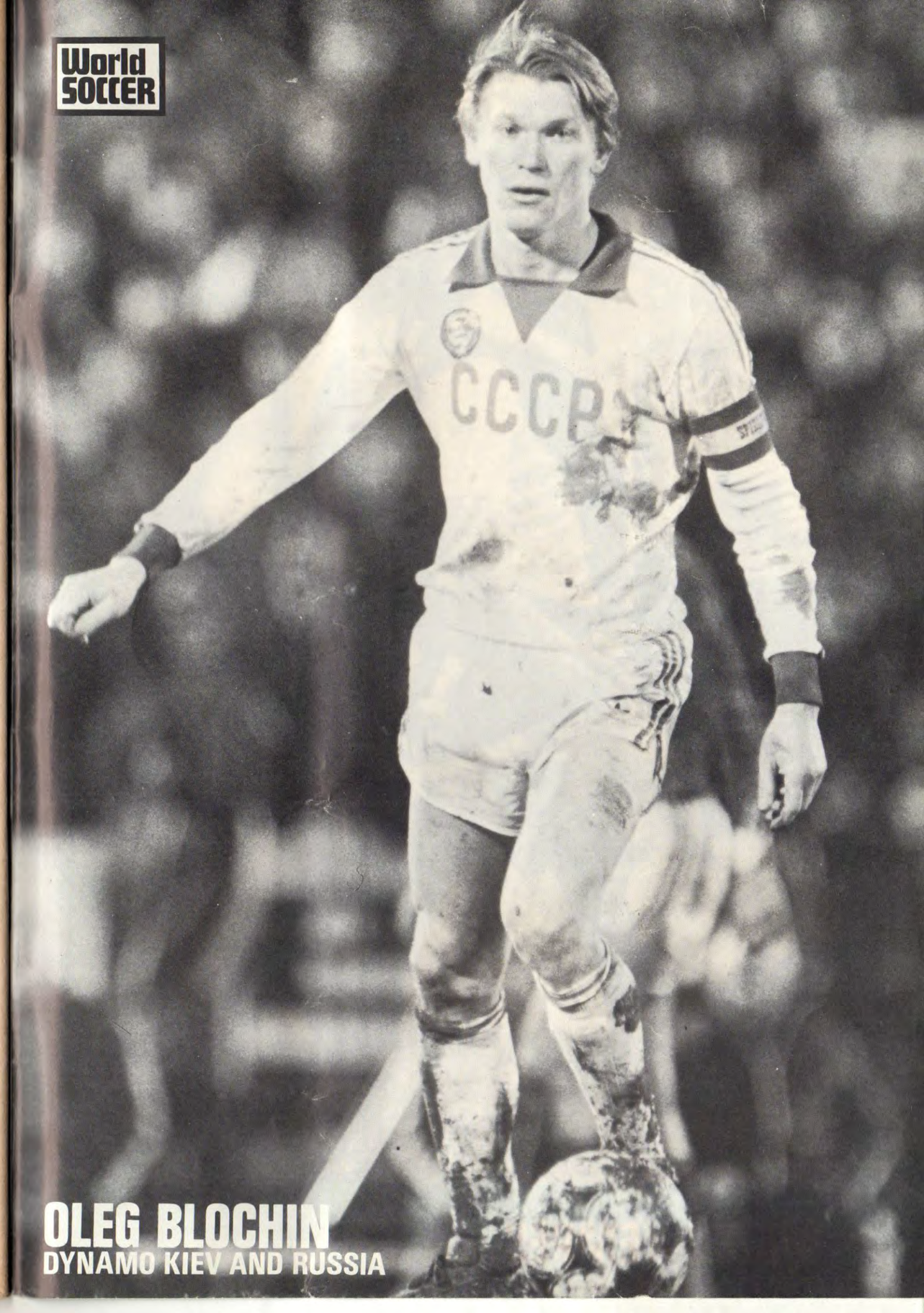
ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tizi-Ouzou	17	10	5	2	28	13	42
EP Sétif	18	10	3	5	29	15	41
WKF Collo	18	8	7	3	20	9	41
CM Belcourt	18	8	6	4	20	14	40
ISM Ain Beida	17	9	2	6	21	21	37
MP Oran	18	6	7	5	20	16	37
USM El Harrach	18	7	5	6	11	10	37
GCR Mascara	18	7	3	8	22	35	35
MA Hussein	16	6	6	4	16	11	34
USK Alger	18	5	6	7	15	19	34
RS Kouba	18	3	9	6	12	15	33
MP Alger	18	5	5	8	23	24	33
DNC Alger	18	3	8	7	18	25	33
AJC Oran	18	4	7	7	18	14	33
EM Bel Abbes	18	2	8	8	14	25	30
DNC Chief	18	2	6	10	10	36	28

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	17	11	3	3	31	18	25
La Grant	18	10	5	3	28	14	25
Stand. Liège	18	10	5	3	27	16	25
Antwerp	17	9	4	4	26	13	22
Kortyiyk	18	10	2	6	27	24	22
Lierse	18	9	4	5	26	23	22
Beveren	18	7	7	4	22	15	21
Lokeren	17	7	5	5	21	17	19
RWDM	18	8	2	8	27	25	18
Waregem	18	6	5	7	21	19	17
Beringen	18	6	4	8	20	26	16
Waterschel	17	5	5	7	20	30	15
Tongeren	18	5	5	8	22	31	15
FC Liège	18	5	4	9	21	28	14
Cercle	17	5	3	9	27	31	13
Winterslag	17	3	5	9	11	26	11
Brugge	18	3	4	11	21	31	10
Mechelen	18	2	4	12	16	27	8

More tables next month



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